



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Fed-Up Pastor Sells Church to Condo Developer

Old Theater Building to Face Wrecking Ball

By Corrie M. Anders

A long and often prickly relationship between the Church at San Francisco and its Noe Valley neighbors appears to be coming to a righteous ending.

Owners of the royal-blue house of worship at the corner of Church and 28th streets are in contract to sell the building to a prominent Oakland-based builder, who wants to erect a mid-rise condominium development on the site.

"We have a deal," says Rev. Joesiah Bell, pastor of the non-denominational church, which last spring had launched efforts to establish a temporary sanctuary for homeless women. "We've decided to go where people want to see other people being helped."

Late last month, the developer, J. Branch Development Inc., submitted architectural plans to the city for a four-story, mixed-use complex. The proposal calls for three two-bedroom flats and three two-bedroom townhouses, ground-floor retail space, and a nine-space parking garage.

The condos would carry market-rate price tags. However, one of the six units would be sold to a working-class buyer at less than full price, according to James Branch, who heads the development firm. The reduced cost, which he says has run from 15 to 25 percent at his other developments, is a contribution the firm makes to the community.

"We typically provide a unit at less than market rate," says Branch. "We call

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Local Comedian Alana Devich Helps Rain on Bush

'Deadpan Hurricane' Known for Her Storm of Ironic Humor

By Lorraine Sanders

If you happen to bump into comedian Alana Devich at one of her favorite places, the little park across from Martha's on 24th Street, or see her strolling near her Sanchez Street home, whatever you do, don't ask her to tell you a joke.

According to Devich, asking a comic for a joke is like asking a doctor for free medical advice.

"I get paid for that. Now if you want to pay me....," smiles the funny gal and writer who bills herself as the Deadpan Hurricane and who'll be performing Oct. 14 in the third annual George Bush Going Away Party, a night of political comedy at Herbst Theatre.

What's a better tactic?

Ask her about Marion Jones. Devich is more than happy to discuss the Olympic



The Hauntings of October: Are the bags getting bigger, or are the costumed revelers just getting smaller? Either way, the merchants along 24th and Church streets are ready to receive trick-or-treaters with open arms (some hairy) this Halloween. Most shops with good spirits will have cauldrons filled with treats. So wee ones should not fear. Kids, like these youngsters from Adda Clevenger School, can also wear their disguises to 24th Street for the Noe Valley Harvest Fair on Oct. 21. The event will host costume parades for both kids and dogs.

2005 Halloween Photo by Pamela Gerard

Neighborhood Makes Hay at Harvest Festival

Fair Offers Music, Art, Crafts, Pumpkins, and Stroller NASCAR

By Pat Rose

On Saturday, Oct. 21, 24th Street will bring in the harvest—the second annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival, that is—with live bands, dog and kids costume contests, a hayride, and dozens of booths selling handmade crafts and holiday gifts.

The combination street fair and neighborhood bazaar, sponsored by a bevy of groups including the Friends of Noe Val-

ley and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, promises even more fun than last year, when 5,000 people thronged 24th Street between Church and Sanchez streets.

"We've got some really incredible artists and craftspeople this year," says Forbeadin' owner Donna Davis, who is helping to organize the event. "There will be 76 booths of neighborhood painters, photographers, jewelry makers, and craftspeople selling silk, belts, candles, baby clothes, and even cookies, nuts, and chocolates."

The fair, which runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., will be bustling with activities for families and kids, including a "Punkin Patch" and pumpkin-decorating contest, a treasure hunt, apple bobbing, and Noe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Alana Devich is one of four comedians taking the stage at the Herbst Theatre Oct. 14 for a Kung Pao Kosher Comedy "going-away" party for George W. Bush. Photo by Pamela Gerard

track star's great muscle tone, as she does in graphic detail in a recent post on her blog. What fuels this interest in Jones' physique? Lust, folks, pure and simple.

"She's one of my 'M' crushes. Right now, all of my crushes are on people with M's," she says, with a straight face, of course.

While the rock-hard quality of Jones' abdominals and matters of the heart are, as readers will likely agree, of chief importance in this world, Devich does not confine herself to these topics in her standup routine, nor in her life. The 30-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Bell Market's Future Owner Is a Natural

Supermarket Sale Lures Harley DeLano Out of Retirement from His Cattle Farm

By Olivia Boler

After months of speculation, the fate of 24th Street's Bell Market is about to be settled. Supermarket veteran Harley DeLano and Kroger Co., the owner of Bell, have signed a deal for DeLano to purchase 11 Cala Foods and Bell Markets in Marin County and San Francisco, including the 24th Street Bell Market.

DeLano and Kroger are scheduled to complete the transaction in early December. The deal was first reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on Aug. 29, and DeLano confirmed the report to the *Voice* last month.

Even though DeLano is upbeat about the transaction, his attitude is cautious. "We are in escrow, and anything can happen with escrow," he says.

If everything goes according to plan, the sale of the 24th Street location should

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Real Food Co. Still Vacant After Three Years

By Liz Highleyman

The three-year anniversary of the closure of the 24th Street Real Food Company grocery store came and went in late August, with few signs that long-promised renovations are moving forward.

"It is a blight on the neighborhood," Friends of Noe Valley president Richard May said of the continued closure.

"I'm very disappointed," added Carol Yenne, outgoing president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. "It's a drag on the neighborhood small business environment."

As *Voice* readers will recall, Real Food's Utah-based parent company, Nutraceutical Corporation, shuttered the store and terminated some 30 employees over Labor Day weekend in 2003, saying they intended to do a badly needed remodeling.

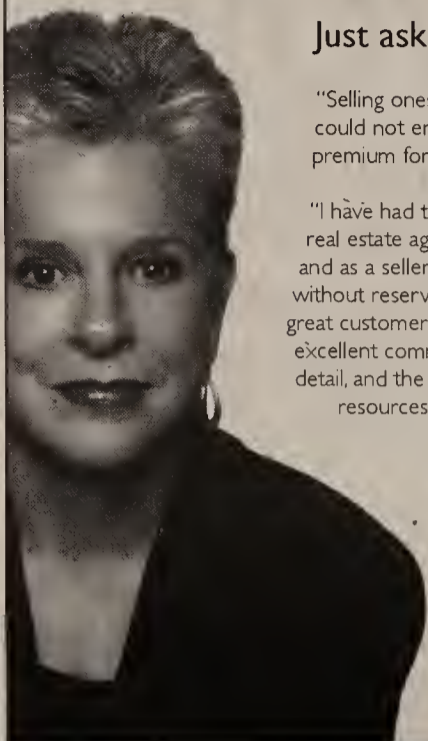
Work on the building started and stopped several times over the ensuing years, as Nutraceutical and building owners Jane and Kimball Allen sparred over who should shoulder the cost of repairs.

At the same time, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty and neighborhood activists attempted repeatedly—but with little success—to engage the company in negotiations. They sent numerous letters urging Nutraceutical to provide a just settlement for the fired workers and to consider the neighborhood's wishes in redoing the store.

In November 2005, Nutraceutical pur-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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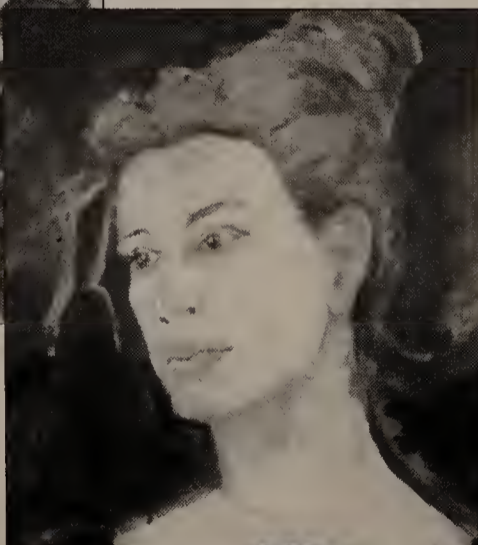
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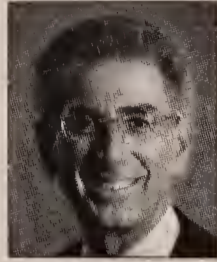
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Noe Valley Democratic Club



November 7th Election Endorsements

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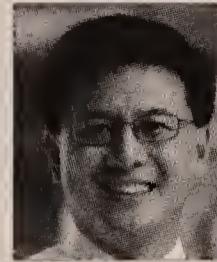
Governor
Phil Angelides



Lt. Governor
John Garamendi



Secretary of State
Debra Bowen



Controller
John Chiang



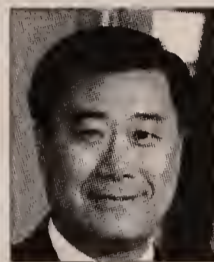
Treasurer
Bill Lockyer



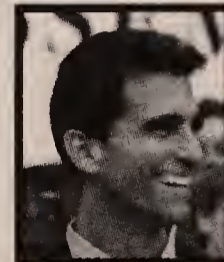
Attorney General
Jerry Brown



Insurance Commissioner
Cruz Bustamante



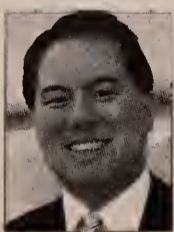
State Senate District 8
Leland Yee



State Assembly District 13
Mark Leno

- 1A – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Transportation Investment Fund
- 1B – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act
- 1C – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act
- 1D – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act
- 1E – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act
- 83 – NO** — Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring
- 84 – YES** — Water Quality, Flood Control, Natural Resource Protection, Park Improvements
- 85 – NO** — Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy
- 86 – YES** — Tax on Cigarettes for Hospital, Emergency Services, Tobacco Education
- 87 – YES** — Tax on California Oil Producers. Alternative Energy Research, Production Incentives
- 88 – NO** — Education Funding. Real Estate Parcel Tax
- 89 – YES** — Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contribution & Expenditure Limits
- 90 – NO** — Government Acquisition. Regulation of Private Property

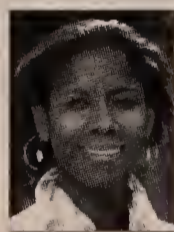
----- San Francisco Candidates & Propositions -----



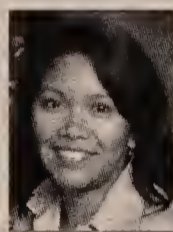
Assessor-Recorder
Phil Ting



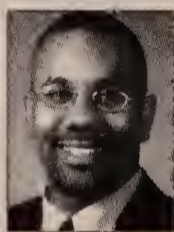
Public Defender
Jeff Adachi



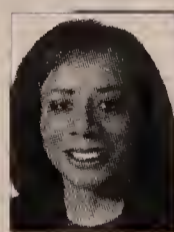
Board of Education
Kim-Shree Maufas



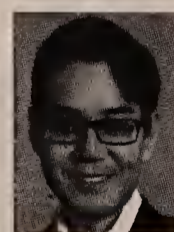
Board of Education
Hydra Mendoza



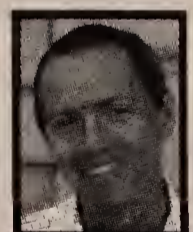
Community College Board
Johnnie Carter



Community College Board
Anita Grier



Community College Board
Lawrence Wong



District 8 Supervisor
Bevan Dufty

- A – YES** — School General Obligation Bonds
- B – YES** — Allowing Teleconferencing Due to Pregnancy and Related Conditions. Parental Leave
- C – YES** — Setting Salaries of Certain Elected Officials
- D – YES** — Privacy Protection
- E – YES** — Parking Tax Surcharge
- F – YES** — Paid Sick Days
- G –** — Limitations on Retail Stores – **NO ENDORSEMENT**
- H – YES** — Relocation Benefits - No Fault Evictions
- I – NO** — Monthly Board of Supervisors Appearances by the Mayor
- J – YES** — Policy Calling for Impeachment of Bush/Cheney
- K – YES** — Housing for Seniors and People with Disabilities

The Noe Valley Democratic Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:30pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street

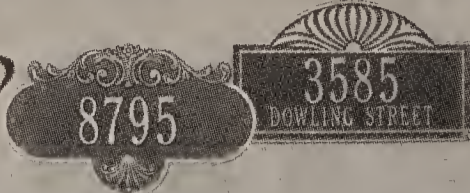
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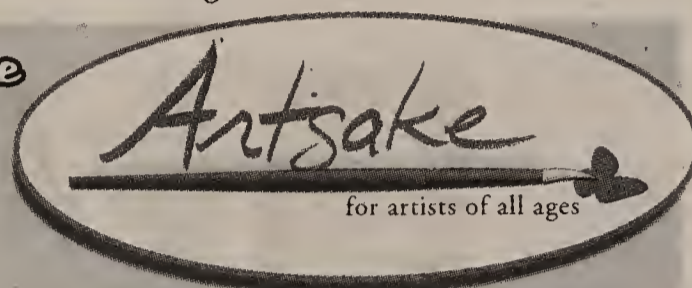
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Noe Valley Salon
Noe Valley Video
Norine & Shawn Maloney
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Starbucks
The Tax Managers

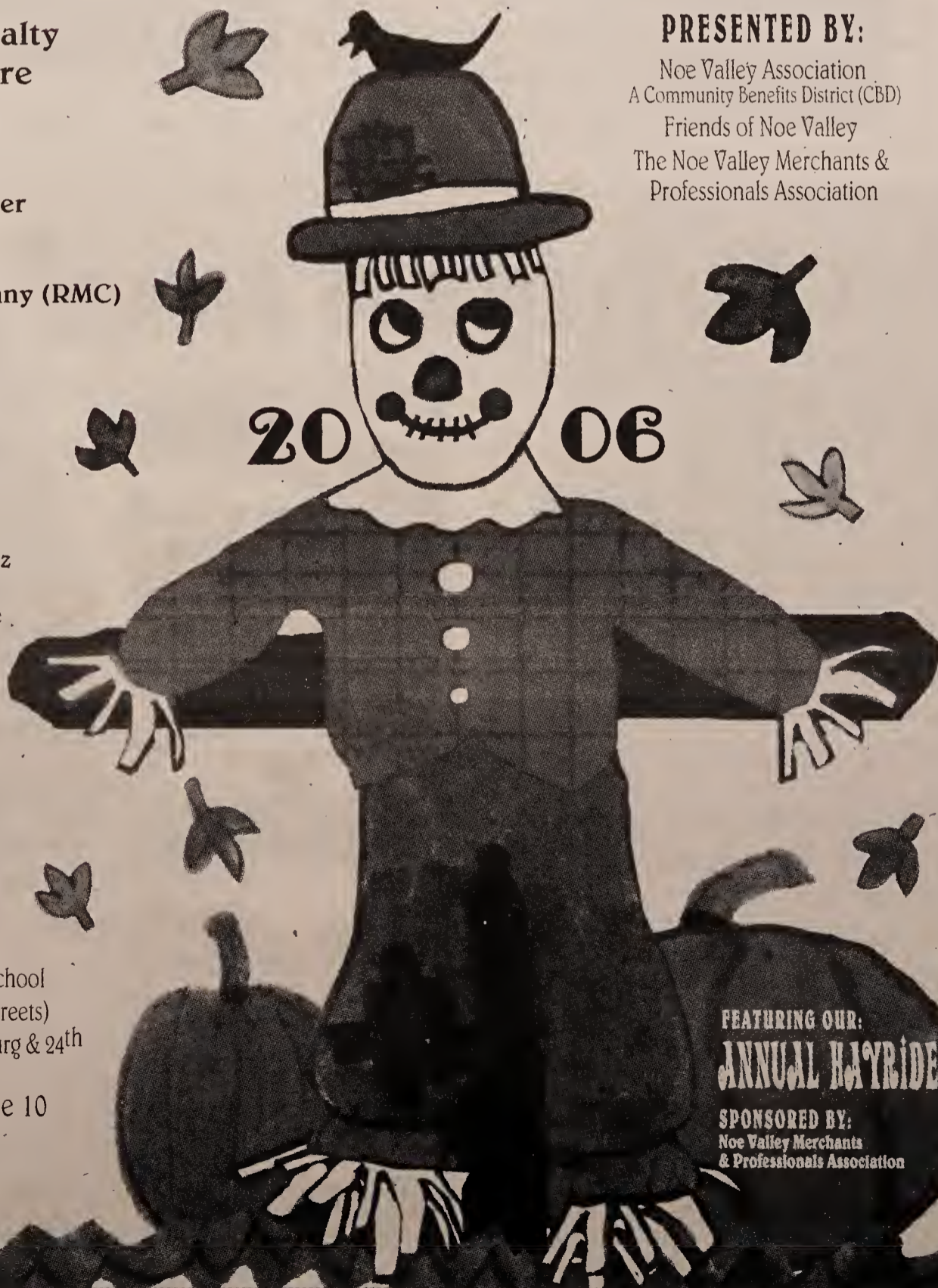
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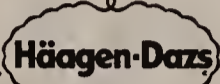
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LETTERS 39¢

Dig Up the Roots of Homelessness

Regarding the Noe Valley Association's effort to beautify the public parking lot on 24th Street, reported in your September issue Rumors column: This project was prompted by the dreaded appearance of homeless people sleeping behind the low brick wall for protection from the elements, as well as the super-dreaded appearance of needles. (I always wonder about the latter. How visible are these needles? Do people regularly inspect the area on their hands and knees, or do these needles stand out with tags attached to them stating, "For use by the homeless for illicit drug injection"?)

But I digress from the request I'd like to make that the NVA address on some level the causes of homelessness and drug abuse. I remember the program you reported several years ago about merchants hiring students from James Lick to work in stores as a work-experience project. The program seemed like a real winner, and I'm wondering if it's still active. There is so much energy in the NVA and its sponsors, it seems like some gesture could be made toward alleviating the causes of homelessness in our society.

Lynn Thompson

More Neighbors on 22nd Street

I was pleased to read the "Livin' on the Edge (of the Neighborhood)" article in the September issue, focusing on the interesting new businesses opening up in the 22nd and Guerrero area. The creative feel of this neighborhood is exactly why I jumped at the opportunity to relocate my business when I saw a "For Rent" sign at 22nd and Dolores. Now I can proudly say that my skincare business, Total Skincare

by Andrea, is also located "on the edge of the neighborhood," along with Jennifer Skowlund, D.C., Chiropractic.

Andrea Sanchez
3496 22nd Street

People Live Where They Can Afford to Live

Editor:

I read with interest and some irritation Rebecca Freund's letter titled "Noe Valley—Exclusive Playground of the Wealthy?" [September 2006]. Ms. Freund says that coming from the Midwest, she thinks housing prices in Noe Valley of \$1,800 per month for a one-bedroom apartment are outrageous and irrational. I too come from the Midwest, where I owned a six-unit rental building. Three years ago, I purchased a five-unit rental building in San Francisco. The housing and rental prices in Chicago were on a par with those of San Francisco. Yes, some of my tenants here are paying \$1,800 per month, but one of my tenants is paying \$225 per month, including a garage space. This tenant is not a low-income tenant. Myself and the other tenants paying market rent subsidize her lifestyle.

Does Ms. Freund know anything about San Francisco's restrictive rent control laws? We didn't have to contend with such laws in the Midwest. Ms. Freund talks about senior citizens and disabled folks on fixed incomes who may not be able to afford to live in Noe Valley. I can't afford to live in Pacific Heights. I live where I can afford to live. Does anyone have the right to live anywhere and be subsidized by someone else? No one subsidizes my mortgage to live in Noe Valley. Why should I subsidize the rent so someone may live in Noe Valley?

Sheila Malkind
Eureka Street

Is Church Street Business a Good Thing?

Editor:

I'm very concerned about the new merchants association Church Street Business (CSB), featured in the September issue of the *Voice*. CSB's assertion that Church Street is a shopping street without an identity and that's something they intend to change is frightening, to say the least. They say they want to "bring new shoppers to stores and cafes along the strip."

Noe Valley is a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood, and I like it that way. As it is, you can still find some parking, and the pace of traffic isn't too frantic. That's going to change if CSB realizes its dream of commercializing Church Street. Many of these merchants don't even live in our neighborhood, but their businesses are here and they'd love nothing more than seeing the traffic and customers increase manyfold. After all, their motivation isn't the betterment of our neighborhood but rather *making money*. These merchants are already exploiting the charm, relative safety, and easy access of our neighborhood. But they want more.

Think about what will happen in our neighborhood once the well-funded CSB gets rolling. They can run advertisements encouraging people from outside Noe Valley to come to Church Street. They can start targeting businesses already on Church Street that don't generate much traffic, such as the insurance agent and the spiritual reading shop. They can find out when their leases come due and approach their landlords offering more rent for businesses that will generate more customers. They can pressure City Hall to post more signage (i.e., "colorful banners"), permit sidewalk sales, and ultimately install parking meters, all in an effort to increase traffic and customer turnover.

The CSB instigators say, "We sort of live in the shadow of 24th Street." Yes,

Reeling in the Years

Editor's Note: This letter was addressed to the folks at First Choice Video, a popular video outlet at the corner of 24th and Church streets which closed for liquidation in late September.

Dear 24th Street Video Guys:

Seeing that you are closing touches a weepy little spot down inside me. Your store played a significant role in my daughter Lucy's growing up. She is now nearly 15 and has been a customer of your store her entire life. It was the first place in the neighborhood she was permitted to go on her own. She had to take the dog along for safety, but she was being independent, and that's huge to a little girl. She had to cross multiple streets, she had to have money, she had to make her own video choices (I'm not sure how many times she was directed to return age-inappropriate movies to the rack), and she had to come back with the correct change. I remember watching the clock nervously awaiting her return. How long should I allow for indecision? How long for disaster?

Among the lessons she learned from your business were: late fees, obtaining and paying back credit, rewinding the rental, remembering to check that the movie was actually in the box, and how to scramble out of the car like a "bat out of hell" to return multiple movies to the return slot before an impatient motorist started honking for me to move. She also learned that being a good customer can at times get you a break when it comes to minor infractions.

The lessons I learned from your business were: My kid knew how to make adult friends on her own (I remember she baked cookies for one of your birthdays), she had good manners even when I wasn't standing there, she will by genetic predisposition choose "chick flicks," and we are part of a community where trust is precious and you should remember to say thank you to the people who show kindness to you and your family.

Thank you for all the years of friendly entertainment. Thanks for being nice to my child. I'm glad we never went to the big chain video stores, because you deserved our business. I wish you all the best of luck in the future.

Tim Finn

and I like it that way! I know some may say my views are NIMBYism (not in my back yard). They'd be absolutely correct. However, I live here with my family and I'm going to fight for the right to decide who's going to make the call regarding the tone and tenor of our neighborhood.

Howard Fallon

Thank You, Noe Valley

Editor:

At the beginning of August, my husband and I suffered the loss of our 3½-year-old dog Bella. She died as a result of an accident. We felt as if we'd been robbed of a precious part of our lives—all the more so because she was young and we thought we'd have many more years with her. Suddenly she was gone.

Laetitia Phelps from the French Tulip flower shop and Raven Voss from Scribbledoodles (at Just for Fun) came to the rescue by organizing a raffle, bake sale, and sidewalk sale to help defray our staggering vet bills. A lot of Noe Valley merchants donated merchandise and gift certificates for the raffle. Raven and Laetitia told me stories of people who happened by the store I manage on 24th Street, heard our story, and went home to get things to donate. All in all, they raised \$3,000.

I've been working in this neighborhood for 20 years and have felt my life enriched by the interesting people and small-town intimacy. This experience made me realize how fortunate I am to be surrounded by such sincerely caring, generous people. My husband Blair and I want to thank you all for your donations and kind concern. Bella will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Veronica Ruedrich
Manager, Astrid's Rabat Shoes
3909 24th Street

Shops Welcome Costumed Tots—and a Logo Designer

Editor:

Thank you for your coverage of our newly formed group Church Street Business [September 2006]. Our first meeting was a rousing success in that it brought together neighboring business owners who had never met formally.

We had our second meeting Sept. 18, and decided to welcome all trick-or-treaters to Church Street on Halloween (all day until 7:30 p.m.). Merchants will be giving out special goodie bags (to good and bad children alike), as well as posting "Trick-or-Treaters Welcome" signs in our shop windows. In addition, we dis-

cussed creating a logo for our nascent association. We are hoping a local graphic designer will step forward to donate some time to help us create a lasting identity. It would be a great help to the association—and a feather in the cap of anyone's graphic design business.

If anyone out there is interested, please contact us at sackharris@comcast.net.

Members, Church Street Business

Blessings from Clipper Street

Editor:

In the early 1970s, we purchased a small home in Noe Valley, and I remember your early papers. Now you've grown and grown, to a sizable paper I try never to miss. But first, my motivation to write: I recently had a near-death experience and am on the road to recovery. I'm in a rehab now, and heading back home in the near future, and I've read the latest *Noe Valley Voice* from cover to cover. Thank you, you've enriched my life.


I have many other thank-you's to express. Thank you to Martin Economou of the Frog Shop [formerly at 24th and Castro], where I used to stop a minute to rest; to Carol Yenne of Small Frys, who also allowed a break at her store; to Gary and Victor of the Animal Company, for their many kindnesses; to Cradle of the Sun for the lovely colors that enhance the ambience of Noe Valley; to Cover to Cover, which will deliver my books on request; to Esther Goldman and Rik Sanjour, who always welcomed me to Star Magic—I still grieve for its loss; to Glen Potter of Accent on Flowers, who has rescued me on a number of occasions; to Mylene's hair salon and Walgreen's for good service; to Tuggey's Hardware for answering my obscure questions with grace; and to Harry Aleo for bringing us Lost in the Fog.

Thanks also to my Clipper Street neighbors, friends, and extended family. You know who you are, and I am deeply grateful. And last but not least, thank you to my dear son Steve, who has borne my idiosyncrasies and sometimes wacky humor with considerable grace. Being an "elder" (I'm 84) has its advantages.

I do hope I have enhanced the neighborhood and can stay a while longer in this place, which has its own special charm and warmth. When I finish my journey, I hope to do so with grace, dignity, and humor on Clipper Street.

From my heart to your hearts, and to the heart of the universe, peace.

Kim Mercuri-Bullis
Clipper Street


THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
1021 Sanchez Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
www.noevalleyvoice.com

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Erin O'Brian, *Features Editor*
Olivia Boler, *Last Page Editor*
Laura McHale Holland, *Associate Editor*
Corrie M. Anders, Heidi Anderson, Ava Benezra, Rosie Raley Atkins, Sue Cattoche, Helen Colgan, Suzanne Herel, Liz Highleyman, Florence Holub, Jeff Kaliss, Doug Konecky, Laura McCloskey, David Moisil, Bob Oaks, David O'Grady, Elliot Poger, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Lorraine Sanders, Karen Topakian, John Trinkl, Kate Volkman

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Pamela Gerard, *Photo Editor*
Beverly Sharp, *Senior Photographer*
Jan Brittonson, Najib Joe Hakim, Leo Holub, Charles Kennard, Ken Newman

PRODUCTION

Jon Elkin, Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

ILLUSTRATION

Karol Barske

WEB DESIGN

Elliot Poger

ADVERTISING SALES

Steve Steinberg, *Advertising Manager*

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Pilates

Calendar of Events

We are celebrating our 3rd year anniversary this month with the opening of an additional 900 s/f for group classes and retail. Join us for a weekend of events.

Oct. 20 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Open House Reception with wine tasting and music - Free

Oct. 21 10:00am - 11:30am
Pilates for Low Back Pain management workshop - \$35.00

Oct. 22 All day
Stop by our booth at the Noe Valley Harvest Festival for free demos and give-aways!



October Specials

Introductory Special extended to 4 private sessions at 20% off (First time clients only)
\$224.00

Buy a 10 package of group reformer classes and get a free TheraBand
\$300.00

Private (1 client)	
Single Session	\$70.00
Package of 5	\$337.50
Package of 8	\$520.00
Semi-Private (2 clients)	
Single Session	\$45.00
Package of 5	\$200.00
Group Reformer Classes (4 clients)	
One Class	\$35.00
5 classes	\$162.50
10 classes	\$300.00



Workshops

Registration is required by phone or through our website. Full descriptions on our website.

Fall/Winter

Oct. 21 10:00am - 11:30am
Pilates for Low Back Pain Management
\$35.00

Nov. 4 10:00am - 11:00am
Pilates conditioning for Winter Sports
\$25.00

Dec. 2 10:00am - 11:30am
Pilates on the Ball and Foam Roller
\$35.00

Upcoming Workshops:

Prenatal . Postnatal (Mommy & Me) . Triathlon . Knee Pain

We Sell

Exercise Balls-65 cm, made by TheraBand
Foam Rollers-6"x36"
Resistance Tubes
Pilates Rings/Magic Circles
Active Ware
Spring Pilates T-shirts, Tanks and Hoodies
Books



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 AM	Beginning/ Intermediate	Open Level	Beginning/ Intermediate	Open Level		
8:00 AM	Beginning				Beginning/ Intermediate	
9:00 AM		Open Level		Open Level		Open Level
10:00 AM			Beginning		Beginning	Beginning/ Intermediate
11:00 AM					Intermediate	Beginning
12:00 PM		Power Lunch 45 minutes	Power Lunch 45 minutes	Power Lunch 45 minutes	Power Lunch 45 minutes	
1:00 PM			Intermediate		Intermediate	
2:00 PM						
3:00 PM						
4:00 PM		Intermediate/ Advanced			Intermediate/ Advanced	
5:00 PM						
6:00 PM	Beginning	Advanced Cardio	Beginning	Intermediate/ Advanced		
7:00 PM	Intermediate/ Advanced	Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate		
8:00 PM		ABSolute Beginner				

*Class schedule subject to change. Please call for class placement.

Expanded Fall Class Schedule

In our classes, a 4 person maximum assures individualized attention at a group class rate. See our website for a complete list of class level classifications and descriptions. Registration for classes required and can be done so on our website or by phone.



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RICHMOND DISTRICT • 3 CONDOS



3 Brand New Condominiums. Common features: granite counter tops and s/s appliances. BAS in stone and granite. Flooring is hardwood and carpet. In-house laundry. Car spaces.

Unit 1 – \$938,000 Approx. 1,560 sq. ft. 4 BRS, incl. master suite w/separate spa tub and shower and a guest BR w/in-suite BA. 2nd BA. Kitchen w/breakfast bar, dining area leading to large liv/rm w/fireplace. Large garden.

Unit 2 – \$729,000 Approx. 945 sq. ft. 2 BRS, incl. master suite w/spa tub, shower and deck. 2nd BA. Kitchen has breakfast bar and dining area. Liv/rm w/fireplace has private open space on roof of 2nd floor.

Unit 3 – \$699,000 Approx. 805 sq. ft. 2 BRS, incl. master suite w/separate spa tub and shower. 2nd BA. Kitchen has breakfast bar. Liv/rm w/fireplace opens to deck with great views.

CORONA HEIGHTS • 2 TIC UNITS



Top Unit – \$799,000

PENDING

- 2 master suites, 1 w/gas fireplace & city views
- 1 additional BR and BA
- Deluxe kitchen, s/s appliances, granite tops
- BAS finished in slate/marble
- Liv/rm w/fireplace basks in natural light
- Floodlit rear patio w/landscaping
- Hardwood floors. Washer/dryer

Middle Unit – \$699,000

PENDING

- 1 master suites, 1 w/fireplace
- 2 BR and BA
- Deluxe kitchen, s/s appliances, granite tops
- Island bar.
- Liv/rm w/fireplace
- BAS finished in granite, slate and marble
- Hardwood floors. Washer/dryer. Rear Patio.

Inlaw Unit with tremendous income potential on 1st level must be sold with one of the above units. It has 1 BR and BA, liv/rm, dining, deluxe kitchen, s/s appliances, granite counter tops. BA finished in slate/marble. Hardwood floors. Washer/dryer.

Offered at a very reasonable \$289,000. A 1 car garage space is also offered at \$189,000.

NOE VALLEY • 2 CONDOS



Upper Condo – \$1,299,000

PENDING

- Top Level: liv/rm, deluxe kitchen, dining, 2 walk-out decks w/amazing views, breakfast bar, s/s appliances, granite counter tops, 1/2 bath.
- Lower Level: master suite w/ separate spa bath & shower, 2 walk-in closets, 3 BRS & a BA.
- Flooring is hardwood. BAS finished in granite/tile. 1 car space. Washer/dryer.

Lower Condo – \$1,178,000

SOLD

- Top Level: liv/rm, deluxe kitchen, dining, walk-out deck, 3 BRS, BA, breakfast bar, granite counter tops, s/s appliances.
- Lower Level: master suite w/ separate spa bath & shower, liv/rm w/fireplace, patio, raised garden
- Flooring is hardwood. BAS finished in granite/tile. 1 car space. Washer/dryer.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: 2 NEW CONDOS IN THE RICHMOND DISTRICT

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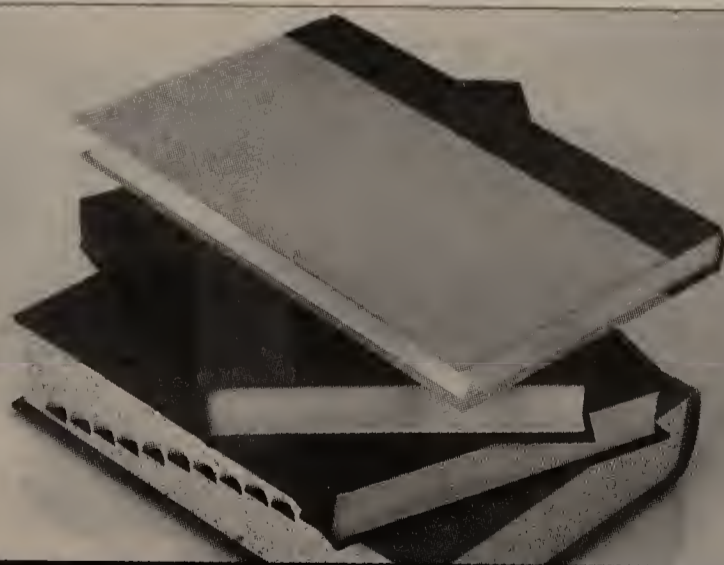
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(Trust Building Tip #14)

If you volunteer to return someone's library books, don't wait a week to do it.

Of course, the Number 1 way to build trust is to consistently show that you're there to help for all the right reasons.

That's what you get when you work with Michael and Oliver; from small things like being on time and returning

calls, to more important matters like delivering sound advice on property value and financing.

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Re-Elect Supervisor Bevan Dufty

Improving Noe Valley Block by Block

Keeping the Noe Library Renovation on Track

Noe Valley's Sally Brunn Branch Library, a historic Andrew Carnegie building, requires seismic and access renovation. I have worked closely with Noe Valley community leaders to keep this project on track and fully funded. Cost increases twice threatened to stall the project or curtail its scope.

Both times I secured needed funding from the Library Commission; work on this two-year \$5.7 million construction project began in March 2006.



"Bevan has been our Guardian Angel for the Noe Valley Library."

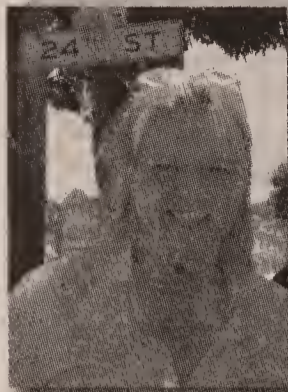
-Kim Drew*
Co-Chair,
Noe Valley Library
Campaign

As with all branch library renovations, neighborhood fundraising campaigns are needed to purchase furnishings and fixtures. Now is the perfect time to make your pledge. E-mail noevalleylibrarycampaign@yahoo.com



"I had some doubts about Bevan at first, but he has turned out to be a true advocate for our neighborhood."

-Vicki Rosen*
President of Upper Noe Neighbors



"Bevan has shown tremendous dedication to the needs of the Noe Valley community. Bevan listens and he gets things done."

-Debra Niemann*
Former President,
Friends of Noe Valley

Creating the Noe Valley Community Benefits District

I established the Noe Valley Community Benefits District (CBD) in July 2005 in a team effort with Carol Yenne of 24th Street Merchants and Debra Niemann, then President of Friends of Noe Valley.

Noe Valley's commercial property owners voted to assess themselves for additional cleaning, greening and policing patrols.

Since January 2006, regular crews staffed by MJM Management pick up litter, remove graffiti, steam clean sidewalks and maintain trees. 24th Street has never looked better.

Allowing New Restaurants on 24th Street

Over 15 years ago a zoning restriction was enacted prohibiting new restaurants on 24th Street.

Working with Friends of Noe Valley, we conducted community meetings and surveys and determined that neighbors wanted to modify the restriction. I authored a zoning amendment that allows up to 3 new restaurants on 24th street over the next 5 years.

At Last: Renovating Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Valley Rec Center is slated for a much needed \$6.6 million face lift starting this Fall.

It is scheduled to take 16 months. I am establishing a neighborhood committee that will work with me to monitor all phases of this project to keep it on track.

Designing a New Children's Play Area for Noe Courts

In Winter 2005, Laura Norman, Ilene Osherow, and Eden Halbert, all parents of small children, invited me to see the poor conditions at the Noe Courts Children's/Tots Play area. The area is both unsafe and unexciting in terms of the play equipment.

Initially the prospects for re-doing the area were limited since Noe Courts was not part of Recreation and Park's 10-year capital program. However, the outpouring of neighbor interest helped me persuade Mayor Gavin Newsom to include \$175,000 in capital funds to jump-start design of a new children's play area. I secured the additional \$225,000 funds are needed so we can begin construction in early 2007 for completion next summer.

23rd and Castro

Despite repeated requests, DPT had rejected making this intersection a 4-way stop. I sponsored the resolution and it was installed last year. Perhaps no stop sign in District 8 has elicited the acclaim I've heard for the 4-way stop sign at 23rd and Castro.



J-Church Screeching Tracks

Working with Vicki Rosen, President of Upper Noe Neighbors, we fixed track maintenance problems with MUNI. When the tracks are not frequently washed and lubricated, they screech. We had several field trips with MUNI managers and this helped to keep the problem under control.

Creating More Parking Spaces!

To offer some parking relief, I worked to establish diagonal parking on Castro between 25th and Jersey. This netted 8 new parking spaces in a bustling area of shops and restaurants. Carol Yenne was the "General" that marshaled needed support.

Please visit bevanduffy.com and sign-up to:

Put up a house sign (Bevan does not post signs on street poles) • Make a contribution (Bevan has a voluntary limit of \$100) • Host a house party (we will help you invite friends and neighbors and there is no requirement for fundraising, just meeting District 8 voters) • Volunteer in our HQ. We are returning to our storefront at 2344 Market Street between Castro and Noe. (We especially need help with database and computer work) • Work a Saturday or Sunday at one of our Voter Registration/Re-Elect Bevan tables • Provide a donation or loan of office equipment, computers, etc.

To volunteer, contact Alex Randolph at 415.621.VOTE or E-mail volunteer@bevanduffy.com.

* Organizational affiliations for identification purposes only.



Get Informed About Ranked-Choice Voting!

For the November 7, 2006 Election, San Francisco voters will use ranked-choice voting to elect the Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender.

San Francisco voters who live in Supervisorial Districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 will also use ranked-choice voting to elect their Member of the Board of Supervisors.



With ranked-choice voting, the names of all the candidates are listed in three side-by-side columns on the ballot.

This allows you to rank up to three candidates for the same office.

If there are fewer than three candidates, or to rank fewer than three candidates, you may leave any remaining columns blank.

Learn More About Ranked-Choice Voting!

For more information on ranked-choice voting, or to find out what district you live in, contact the San Francisco Department of Elections at (415) 554-4375 or visit www.sfgov.org/election.

如果你想進一步瞭解關於優先選擇投票的中文資料, 請致電(415) 554-4367.

Para información acerca de la votación por orden de preferencia, llame al Departamento de Elecciones al (415) 554-4366.

MEMBER, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS / MIEMBRO, CONSEJO DE SUPERVISORES / 市參議員
DISTRICT 00 - DISTRITO 00 - 第00選區

VOTE YOUR FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD CHOICES / VOTE POR SU PRIMERA, SEGUNDA Y TERCERA SELECCIÓN / 投票你的第一、第二和第三選擇

1 FIRST CHOICE PRIMERA SELECCIÓN 第一選擇	2 SECOND CHOICE SEGUNDA SELECCIÓN 第二選擇	3 THIRD CHOICE TERCERA SELECCIÓN 第三選擇
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT 愛麗諾·羅斯福 Incumbent 現任者	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT 愛麗諾·羅斯福 Incumbent 現任者	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT 愛麗諾·羅斯福 Incumbent 現任者
CESAR CHAVEZ 塞薩·查維茲 Labor Organizer 勞工組織者	CESAR CHAVEZ 塞薩·查維茲 Labor Organizer 勞工組織者	CESAR CHAVEZ 塞薩·查維茲 Labor Organizer 勞工組織者
WALTER LUM 華特·拉姆 Publisher 出版商	WALTER LUM 華特·拉姆 Publisher 出版商	WALTER LUM 華特·拉姆 Publisher 出版商
JOHN HANCOCK 約翰·漢考克 Physician 醫師	JOHN HANCOCK 約翰·漢考克 Physician 醫師	JOHN HANCOCK 約翰·漢考克 Physician 醫師
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 馬丁·路德·金, Jr. Minister 牧師	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 馬丁·路德·金, Jr. Minister 牧師	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 馬丁·路德·金, Jr. Minister 牧師
ANNA MAE PICTOU AQUASH 安娜·瑪·皮圖·阿奎什 Indigenous Rights Organizer 土著權利組織者	ANNA MAE PICTOU AQUASH 安娜·瑪·皮圖·阿奎什 Indigenous Rights Organizer 土著權利組織者	ANNA MAE PICTOU AQUASH 安娜·瑪·皮圖·阿奎什 Indigenous Rights Organizer 土著權利組織者
WRITE-IN / NO LISTADO / 寫入	WRITE-IN / NO LISTADO / 寫入	WRITE-IN / NO LISTADO / 寫入

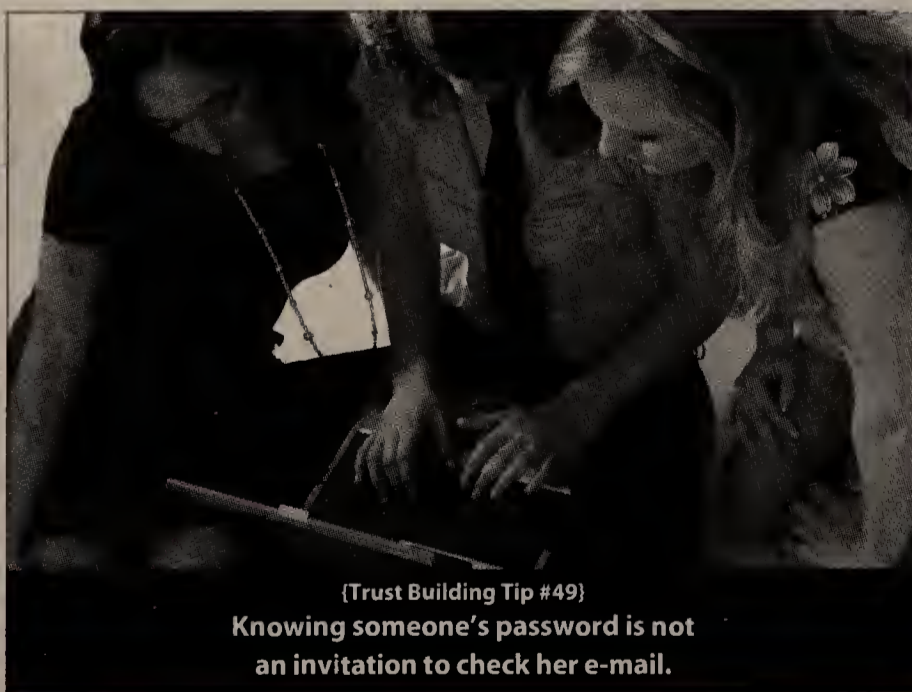


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Tuesday, November 7th

See you at The Harvest Festival ✨
Saturday, October 21st
On 24th Street between Church & Sanchez



(Trust Building Tip #49)

Knowing someone's password is not
an invitation to check her e-mail.

Of course, the Number 1 way to build trust is to consistently show that you're there to help for all the right reasons.

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WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY 11:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

Bell Markets Buyer Owned the Local Store Before

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be wrapped up sometime between Dec. 1 and Dec. 10. The escrow closing is contingent on the landlords of the different grocery locations, who initially signed leases with Kroger, approving new rental contracts with DeLano. Those are the types of issues that get worked out during escrow, in which a neutral third party holds deeds and deposits until all details of a purchase contract are finalized.

DeLano is set to become the new owner of Bell Market smack dab in the middle of the holiday season. Because of that, he isn't planning on making any big changes for a while.

"What we'd like to do is start serving customers as best we can," he says, and leave any major innovations for a later date.

DeLano Meets His Customer Base

On Sept. 21, DeLano met with Supervisor Bevan Dufty and a group of concerned citizens spearheaded by Friends of Noe Valley. Many residents have lobbied for, among other things, a wider choice of organic foods at the 24th Street store, particularly since the 2003 closure of Real Food Company, the neighborhood's natural foods grocery, across the street.

The get-together, at St. Philip Church on Diamond Street, basically was to introduce DeLano to the neighborhood. He's been invited back to another meeting, to be scheduled in early 2007.

DeLano says he is eager to talk to "groups and homeowners to see what they really would like to change about the store. Most independent grocers depend on the needs and wants of our customers, and usually we only get input if we *don't* provide what they want."

DeLano is an enthusiastic advocate of natural foods. He promises that meat and dairy products will be all-natural, meaning raised on feed without additives or preservatives and free of growth hormones. In addition, his store will strive to sell certified organic products whenever possible.

"We will certainly do all we can to provide all-natural choice beef, pork, and chicken products and have suppliers for that," he says. "We also have to be cognizant of things that have additives and hormone treatments and so on."

DeLano, who lives in Greenwood in the hills above Auburn—where he raises beef cattle—is particularly sensitive to the controversy surrounding bovine growth hormone, also known as BST. The hormone has been linked to cancer, but has not been banned by the federal Food and Drug Administration. DeLano says he will not sell any milk products that come from cows injected with the hormone. "I don't know if it actually does any harm to people, but it does take its toll on the cows."

As for locally grown produce, DeLano says he won't necessarily look to carry it because not a lot of local growers carry the all-natural products.

What's in a Name?

DeLano has the option to keep the name "Bell Market" but isn't sure at this point whether he will. He will stock some "house brands" like the Ralphs' products the store carries now under Kroger Co., but what those brands will be depends on what customers want. "There's nothing dictated to us that says we have to carry a particular brand," he says, "but we are responsible for accommodating more of what the customers want."

The 69-year-old DeLano got his start in the grocery business when he was 14, as a courtesy clerk bagging groceries, helping customers to their cars, and retrieving carts. He rose to president of Cala Foods and Bell Markets in Northern California from 1990 to 1999 before retiring with his wife in 2000 to raise horses and cattle.

In returning to the grocery business, DeLano will become CEO of the family-owned venture. His son, Dennis DeLano, who has been in the supermarket industry for 32 years, will serve as general manager, and his daughter, Desiree DeLano, will head up the community relations and human resources division.

DeLano says he will come to the Bay Area to perform his duties when needed, staying in an apartment he keeps in Tiburon.

"I love San Francisco, and I'm happy to be back," says DeLano. "It's one of the most exciting cities—cosmopolitan, European, all of that—and we're just really excited to get back there." ■



Harvest Fair Takes Over 24th Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Valley's Grand Prix: the Stroller Obstacle Course (using stuffed toys, not real babies!). Jugglers, a caricature artist, and other street performers will stroll through the crowd.

The Sterling Bank & Trust Main Stage at 24th and Church streets will feature four bands performing throughout the day. A group of all-stars from the San Francisco School of the Arts kicks off the music from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Then the popular local band Playdate performs rock and pop from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. The funk band Groovus plays from 2 to 3:15 p.m., and the Nitecaps will end the day with soulful blues from 4 to 5 p.m. In between sets, neighborhood kids and pets will be invited to parade across the stage in the festival's animal and human costume contests. (Kids who want to participate should check in at the Main Stage.)

This year, by popular demand, the Saturday-morning Farmers' Market in the Noe Valley Ministry parking lot at 24th and Vicksburg will be open all day. But come early for the best produce.

Also, the Merchants Association will saddle up the horses for its annual hayride in and around "Downtown Noe Valley." Fairgoers can hitch a ride in front of Walgreen's on Castro Street. The dray wagon will loop around 24th and Jersey streets from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The Harvest Festival is a homegrown affair," says co-organizer Richard May. "It's totally nonprofit and all-volunteer." May says 25 local businesses and residents contributed more than half the fair's \$25,000 budget. "Any proceeds after bills are paid will go to our Community Ben-

efits District to continue beautification of 24th Street."

In addition to Sterling Bank and the Friends of Noe Valley, major sponsors of this year's festival include B.J. Droubi & Co. Realty, Hill & Co. Real Estate, Walgreen's, and Zephyr Real Estate. Other big donors were Artery, Betty Taisch of Coldwell Banker, Real Management Co., Bank of America, Café Ponte, Edward Jones Investments, Eye Level Optometry, Isa's Salon & Spa, Kathy White & Sonia Gomez of Barbagelata Realtors. Small Frys children's store, Aesthetic Dentistry of Noe Valley, BATS Improv, Cover to Cover, the Noe Valley Salon, Noe Valley Video, Noreen & Shawn Maloney, Peek-a-boutique, Starbucks, and the Tax Managers.

The gift shop Ladybug Ladybug is blowing up lots of balloons for the kids. And if you still haven't made your Halloween costume, Liz TerboLizard of Lit'l Lizards & Walkershaw on Castro Street says she'll be "setting up a glittery selection of Halloween costumes for the festival, including tutus, capes, mermaid fins, and wings. And we'll be signing up kids for sewing lessons."

To find out more or to volunteer the day of the fair, e-mail festival chair Norine Traci-Maloney at norine@mharvestfestival.com. Those with cars can park all day for \$10 at James Lick Middle School at Noe and 25th streets. The money will go toward the school's international travel program. ■



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Blue Church to Be Turned into Condos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

it 'workforce housing,' and we find deserving candidates who would benefit from that lower price point."

Demise of an Icon

Demolition of the church would drop the final curtain on a building that started life as a one-screen temple to Hollywood. The theater opened in 1916 as the Searchlight, according to Cinema Treasures, a web site devoted to movie preservation. The theater, which showed German and Russian films in the 1930s and later on American movies, was also known as the Empress, the Lux, the De Lux, the Isis, the Princess, the Church, and the Rita. The Rita moniker eventually gave way to the Del Mar—until 1965 when the Holiness Temple in Christ purchased the building.

Neighbors first saw plans for the new condominiums, designed by the San Francisco architectural firm of Kotas-Pantaleoni, at a community meeting the developer sponsored Aug. 30 at St. Philip Church on Diamond Street.

Vicki Rosen, president of Upper Noe Neighbors, says it was "a very congenial

meeting" and that she expects nearby residents and businesses to give their blessing to the proposal. "There's not a lot of opposition to replacing the church," says Rosen. "It doesn't have a warm place in many people's hearts."

The apparent lack of resistance in a part of town well known for protracted battles with developers is a tacit acknowledgment of the tension that has existed between the church and many in the local community.

Search for a New Pulpit

Bell says he doesn't know where his church will relocate. But he likened leaving Noe Valley to the Israelites escaping the hostile environment of biblical Egypt.

"It's the equivalent to being set free," he says. "I've been here for 10 years and I've just reached my wit's end. I've tried everything I could to be neighborly."

Bell first encountered neighborhood ire shortly after he took over as a social activist pastor and unveiled plans to establish a city homeless shelter. He backed down from the plan, but from time to time has operated food and clothing giveaways at the church, located at 1596 Church Street.

Over the years, Bell says the church has been the target of various forms of harassment—from complaints about sidewalk sales and uncovered garbage cans to



The boxy building at the corner of Church and 28th streets was a movie theater before it was a church. Older residents may remember the theater's many name changes, including the Empress, the Isis, the Princess, and the Rita.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

graffiti-sprayed exterior walls to late-night phone calls that he describes as "racist." Bell is African American and the church congregation is racially diverse.

The decision to sell came after Bell began a \$5 million fundraising drive to build the House of Sarah, a temporary refuge for women who would receive drug and alcohol counseling and life-skills training.

"We got so much adverse reaction from the community," he says. "I'm just sick and tired of it. This is just straight-up racism, and I don't feel like dealing with this kind of stupid stuff."





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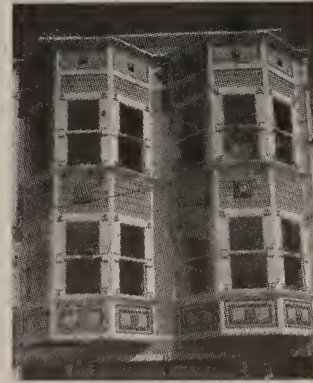
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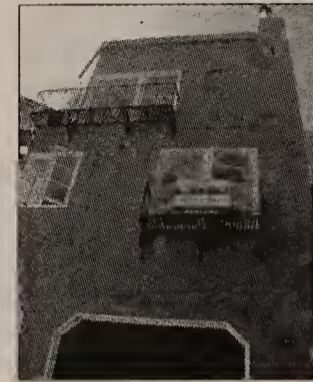
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No Real Activity at Real Food Co.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

chased the building at 3939 24th Street from the Allens as part of a legal settlement. That same month, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled in favor of the ex-employees in an unfair labor practices lawsuit, but Nutraceutical appealed the decision.

Olivia Garcia of the NLRB's San Francisco office told the *Voice* that the company's appeal is now before the national board in Washington, D.C. "They're still in the process of deciding," she said. "The board does not have an estimate of when a decision might be made."

As far as future activism goes, things are in a wait-and-see mode, according to Kim Rohrbach, one of the former employees.

"Thus far, Nutraceutical has changed nothing in its stance to allow for a rapprochement with the 2,000 or so residents who have repeatedly petitioned the corporation and suggested good-faith actions it might take to end its dispute with the community," she said.

"If Nutraceutical were to drop its appeal, agree to a policy of neutrality regarding future union-organizing efforts,

and offer something up to the local businesses that have been adversely impacted, most of the corporation's opponents would likely view such actions as ground-breaking and significant."

Nutraceutical Maintains It Still Has Plans

After Nutraceutical took ownership of the property, many local residents and merchants hoped they might see some progress toward the store's reopening. While the windows of the storefront remain shrouded in paper, some neighbors reported glimpses of activity in and around the building last winter and again this past summer.

Nutraceutical attributed the activity to planning for bigger and better renovations, since the company now owns the property outright.

"My client remains committed to reopening the store," Nutraceutical attorney and Noe Valley resident Stephen Hirschfeld told the *Voice*. "Now that they have purchased the store, they have more latitude. They are taking a lot more time and going through a much more significant construction decision. They want to make it state-of-the-art."

"We are currently working with a local architect and reviewing possible new plans for the building," added Sergio Diaz of Nutraceutical, formerly the marketing

director of the 24th Street store. "We are looking forward to the new plans, since they are beneficial improvements."

Big Dark Space on 24th Street

But after three years of watching and waiting, the store's neighbors are not counting on construction at Real Food starting anytime soon.

"I was told by the company a year ago that last year would be the last holiday season with a big dark space in the middle of 24th Street," said Yenne. "But it doesn't look like anything will happen in the next few months."

Ex-employee Rohrbach is doubtful that Nutraceutical is truly committed to reopening.

"It looks like Nutraceutical is still biding its time and hedging its bets, waiting to see what happens with the NLRB ap-

peal in Washington, and maybe also waiting to see what's going to happen with the Bell Market space across the street," she said. (See story on Bell Market's new ownership, starting page 1.)

Duffy is hoping for the best, noting that the company has hired a permit consultant as well as an architect. As of late September, however, the city's Department of Building Inspection web site showed no recent permit activity for the 24th Street site.

"I am hopeful that we're going to see some movement," Duffy told the *Voice*. "It's a sad anniversary: the closure is not good for the ex-employees, not good for 24th Street, and not good for the neighborhood."



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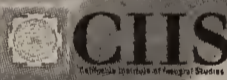
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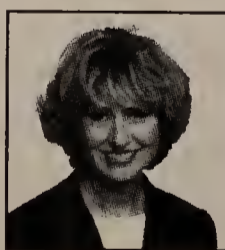
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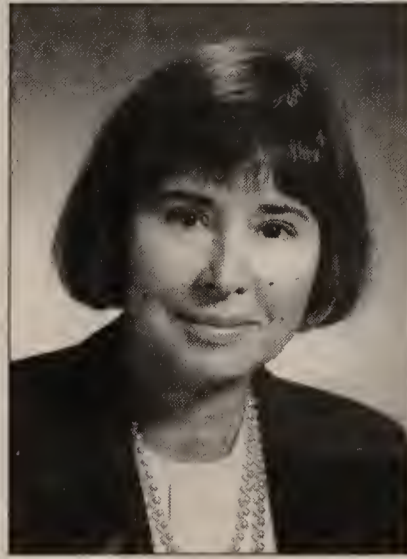
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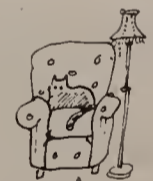
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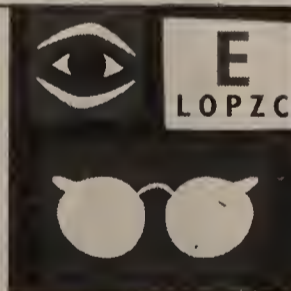
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Though Noe Valley comedian Alana Devich will join in a Bush bash at the Herbst Theatre this month, most of her comedy routines are taken from her own life. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*

Alana Devich—It's Her Life That's Funny

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year-old half-black, half-white lesbian humorist waxes funny on everything from the challenges of hanging oneself (would mint-flavored dental floss work?) to the absurd demands of yoga poses.

Great, everybody! So, this time, I want you to all go up into your handstands and this time spread your feet a little bit apart and then lean your weight onto your stronger arm and then pop onto the fingertips of your other hand. And if that's super-easy for you, then once you're on your fingertips, just take that hand up to your waist. (From www.alanadevich.com.)

Devich was born and raised in San Jose. But for diversity, she soon headed to the East Coast to attend New York's Sarah Lawrence College. She became interested in standup after taking an improv class. Later, she honed her skills at venues like the Comedy Studio in Cambridge, Mass., Boston's Comedy Vault, New York's Gotham Comedy Club, and Portland's Comedy Connection.

She was a featured performer in the Boston Comedy Festival for two years running and made it to the semifinals in Comedy Central's 2002 Laugh Riots Competition. (She's a big fan of Jon Stewart and Paula Poundstone.) In 2003, *Boston Magazine* selected her for its Best of Boston issue, alongside such household names as Conan O'Brien, Denis Leary, and Jay Leno. After several years in New England, Devich relocated to Noe Valley two years ago.

"It's adorable, a really cute neighborhood," she says. "The thing that really cracks me up, though, is that it's like a little suburb," with kids and strollers monopolizing the sidewalks.

While her act is rarely overtly political, Devich feels right at home at a Bush bash. "The fact that I'm biracial and not straight—these are things that [automatically] put me on the outside of mainstream society," she says.

She admits identity politics is a focal point from which much of her humor grows. But there's a twist. "It's not me asking the audience to appreciate what my life is like but assuming that they already do and going from there," she says.

Another key part of Devich's humor is her controlled delivery.

"My persona is very, very deadpan. When I was in college, I had a friend who used to make me raise my left hand when I was joking," she quips.

She finds inspiration for her humor from popular culture, films, overheard snippets of strangers' conversations, and quite often from her father.

"My dad is by far one of the funniest people I know, both intentionally and unintentionally," Devich says.

While he doesn't figure heavily in her act right now, Devich's father is often the one she turns to for help in perfecting jokes. You might think it would be difficult to share personal, sometimes racy joke concepts with one's father, but Devich says her dad's humor is occasionally more shocking than her own.

"He's very good at refining [jokes], but every now and then he says something and I'm like, 'Dad, I can't say that on-stage,'" she says in mock disbelief.

As for her upcoming performance at the Herbst Theatre, Devich has spent the last several months working on new material that speaks to the event's political theme. "For me, writing for the show gives me a good opportunity to meditate on what I'm reading in the paper and seeing in the news. And then to take that a step further and find the comedy in it. A show like this is different from a typical comedy show because everyone is basically on the same wavelength. It lets you start out knowing that, at least politically, you're all on the same page," she says.

While you'll have to catch the show to discover what Devich finds funny about Bush these days (or check out her blog material at right), she does divulge one suggestion for the betterment of America's political system.

"Presidential elections should be run more like reality shows [like *American Idol*]. I think more people would get involved, and candidates would be really easy to vote for."

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy's Third Annual George Bush Going Away Party: An Evening of Political Comedy takes place at the Herbst Theatre on Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. Along with Alana Devich, the show features comedians Greg Proops, Bill Santiago, and Lisa Geduldig. Proceeds from the event benefit the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors' Military Out of Our Schools Program. Tickets (\$22.50 to \$35) are available in advance through the City Box Office, 415-392-4400, or online at www.cityboxoffice.com.

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From Alana Devich's blog (www.alanadevich.com)

Alana uses her blog to post observations and random musings on her life. Here are few:

A gem from the man who loined me, aka Bob Devich:

"George W. Bush is either an idiot or he's faking it. Which, I guess makes him the greatest actor of all time."

[On George W. Bush and Jesus]

Remember back in the day, during that presidential debate when W. said that his favorite political philosopher was Jesus Christ?

I've been thinking a lot about the genius of that statement. I mean, first of all, and most obviously, the answer has so little to do with the question. But the thing is, when JESUS is involved, you cannot ask questions. Because it makes you [look like] an asshole.

I've been trying to apply this little gem in my daily life. The other day, one of my friends asked me what my favorite animal was.

"Jesus."

More from Bob Devich:

Bob: Do you need a bunch of rubber bands for your apartment?

Me: Um.

Bob: Do you need a rubber band supply?

Me: Well.

Bob: Oh, of course you do. I'll put some with your stuff.

Me: Oh, okay.

Thursday, July 13, 2006

I've started meditating every day. It's great opportunity to just sit down and think "only five more minutes...only four minutes and forty-five more seconds..."

[On Nooses] I was watching a movie from the 1960s wherein one of the characters makes a dramatic revelation and then retires to her room and decides to hang herself.... I don't know if women were smarter in the '60s or if I'm just retarded, but ...I have no idea how to make a hang(wo)man's noose. And B? I don't even have any rope. So unless I can use that mint-flavored dental floss in my meddy cabinet and some version of a square knot...

Bob Devich Brilliance:

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Ah, Instant Messenger:

devich: do you know much about the roasting of potatoes?

amd: i know a great deal, in fact

devich: okay, well let me ask you some questions

devich: i mostly roast those little red bliss taters

devich: but at the farmers market this weekend i got one of them purple peruvian potatoes

devich: do you think i can add that to the mix of my red blisses, and if so, do i need to do something special?

amd: i have mixed all kinds of potatoes

amd: sometimes they cook at slightly different rates

amd: it seems like red blisses, which are waxier, might need a little more time than the purples

amd: but maybe not

devich: so i'll just throw them all in at once and keep an eye on them

amd: yeah

amd: sometimes i keep them separate

amd: on opposite ends of the pan, or in two different pans

devich: racist

amd: just in case one cooks a lot faster

devich: u & yr jim crow cooking

amd: white potato power

Overheard:

Him: It's inexplicable.

Her: Yeah. It's like you can't explain it.

Rated ★★★ Michael Bauer, San Francisco Chronicle

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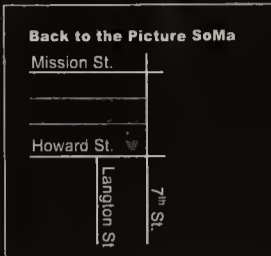
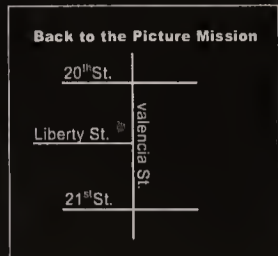
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Making a Difference:

Volunteer Opportunities for Young People

By Ava Benezra

It's 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning. The line in front of St. Anthony Dining Room in the Tenderloin snakes around the block and out of sight. First in line is an elderly man, doing sun salutations on the street, his possessions in a neat pile beside him. Next in line is a woman in a long blond wig sitting on the sidewalk reading her *Chronicle*. The volunteers have long since arrived, including a number of teenagers who've come with their families or schools.

Finally, the doors open, four burly men start to let people in, and the daily procession begins.

A Catholic charity, St. Anthony's offers food, drink, and a clean place to eat every day of the year. Not only are San Francisco's homeless served; so is anyone who has trouble making ends meet and who needs a healthy, balanced meal.

Working in shifts of four to five hours, St. Anthony's volunteers serve more than 2,500 meals a day. They fold napkins, dish out food, and deliver trays to hungry patrons.

In the age of iPods, Xbox, and e-mail,

it's sometimes difficult for people to connect with others in a meaningful way. Pre-teens and teens, whose life experience is limited, often take their many advantages for granted. For them, helping others who are less fortunate can be a real eye-opener. A charity like St. Anthony's, where young people are able to interact with people who are down on their luck, can help teens appreciate all they have.

Here are a few organizations that welcome the helping hands of kids and teens.

St. Anthony Will Bless You

St. Anthony Dining Room, located on Golden Gate Avenue near Jones Street, is staffed by a number of people who are recovering from alcohol and drug abuse problems. Their optimism and good spirits are infectious. Volunteers and staff often share a feeling of camaraderie, and though standing for four hours straight is hard work, there is nothing quite as nice as hearing a heartfelt "Bless you" from one of the patrons.

St. Anthony's prefers its volunteers to be at least 13 years old, and asks that they commit to a regular schedule. Besides helping in the dining room, volunteers can help the St. Anthony Foundation in other areas, such as distributing clothing and furniture to people in need. To find out about the program, call 415-592-2726 or e-mail volunteer@stanthonysf.org.

Sorting for the Food Bank

The non-profit San Francisco Food Bank supplies organizations like St. Anthony Dining Room with food. The Food Bank, which has a warehouse at 900 Pennsylvania Avenue on Potrero Hill, accepts food from donors like grocery stores and gives it to soup kitchens, homeless shelters, Meals on Wheels, and after-school programs for children. The

fruit might be bruised and the cans dented, but the food is still good, and it helps to feed hungry people in San Francisco, which is the Food Bank's mission.

Volunteers sort, label, and box fruit and cans, generally in three-hour shifts. The atmosphere is sociable, and it is easy to talk with friends while working, so the shift passes quickly. A regular commitment is not required, but you should call and schedule your shift in advance. The volunteer coordinator at the Food Bank can be reached at 415-282-1907, ext. 244, or on e-mail at volunteer@sffb.org; or you can go to www.sffoodbank.org.

A Visit to Ronald McDonald House

At San Francisco's Ronald McDonald House, volunteers actually cook the food they serve. Patrons are families that come from all over the world to receive treatment for a critically ill child at one of several local hospitals. Most families cannot afford to put themselves up in a hotel for the duration of their child's treatment. Ronald McDonald House, a 10-bedroom residence on Scott Street, provides them with lodging and home-cooked meals to help lessen the burden.

As long as they are supervised by an adult, volunteers can be pretty young. (Those under 18 must bring a parent or adult.) In three-hour shifts, they generally cook, set tables, and serve, but they are sometimes also asked to garden and paint walls in this home-away-from-home for families with sick children. Ideally, volunteers should commit to a schedule.

To get the scoop, call 415-345-0361, ext. 101, or e-mail kevin@ronaldhouse-sf.org. Also, you can fill out a volunteer application on the Ronald McDonald web site: www.ronaldhouse-sf.org.

Like Books and Music?

St. Anthony Dining Room, the Food

Bank, and Ronald McDonald House all involve food, but there are many organizations that do not, including the Mission Branch Public Library, where volunteers label and shelve videos, CDs, and tapes. It is not necessary to commit to a schedule, but those who do also learn the library's shelving system and the wide range of films and music that are on loan. Those who like to read can use this as an opportunity to scope out new books. The library invites children and teens 12 years and up to help out after school, on Saturdays, or in the summer.

The Mission Branch is located at 300 Bartlett Street (off 24th Street between Mission and Valencia). For information on volunteering, call 415-355-2800. To find out about activities at other library branches, go to the web site www.sfpl.org.

A Match for Everyone

Animal shelters, environmental organizations, hospitals, parks, and senior centers also need help. For more ideas on kids and teen volunteering, check out www.volunteermatch.org.

The work to be done is neverending, but so are the rewards that come from helping those in need.

Ava Benezra, 13, is a resident of Liberty Street and an eighth-grader at San Francisco Day School. Other than the Mission Library, she has volunteered at all the places she wrote about in this story. She attended Interlochen Arts Camp as a writing major and loves to read and write.



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The Cost of Living in Noe

Rents Resume Upward Climb

By Corrie M. Anders

Renters looking for an apartment or house in Noe Valley are finding that the cost to live in the neighborhood has risen, dramatically in some cases, over the past few months. And it may only be the beginning of an expensive new reality.

A survey of rental prices listed on the Craigslist web site in early September showed that Noe Valley landlords were asking an average \$1,396 for a studio apartment and \$1,756 for a one-bedroom unit—each about \$200 a month more than the average rents one year ago.

The price hike was even more telling for larger units. Two- and three-bedroom rentals, at \$2,804 and \$3,830 respectively, were about \$300 more than a year ago. And a four-bedroom unit was up about \$900, to an average \$5,533.

The Craigslist survey involves a small sampling, which can skew averages from month to month. But the survey backs up reports from local property professionals—and anecdotal evidence from apartment hunters—that renters are no longer in the driver's seat.

The demand for apartments, flats, and rental houses in Noe Valley has taken off at a time when the for-sale housing market is slowing from its once-hyper pace.

It's a situation that has flustered Rebecca Perry, a technology consultant in her mid-30s who wants to trade in her Russian Hill studio for sunshine and a yard in Noe Valley. She has been searching for a reasonably priced one-bedroom apartment—only to find the neighborhood oversaturated with renters looking for affordable rent.

Instead, she has found rents "extremely high," which she blames on a stagnant real estate market.

"Those who can afford to buy homes are currently holding out for the market to drop and have turned to rentals," and they can pay substantially higher rental rates, she says. "However, this makes it nearly impossible for someone like me, who is looking for affordable housing" in the \$1,300 per month price range.

Joel Panzer, who heads up Real Management Co., a property management firm on Castro Street, agrees that there is a "much stronger demand" for Noe Valley rentals.

In the past six months, he says prices have jumped 5 to 10 percent for apartments and 10 to 15 percent for houses. The most expensive rental houses often involve owners facing job relocation—in many cases after they have made costly renovations.

They don't want to sell their homes out of fear that they could not afford to return, says Panzer. "Everyone wants to keep one foot in Noe Valley," he says.

Then there are the potential homebuyers who are opting to sit on the fence to see whether housing prices take a nose-dive, says Larry Souza, chief real estate economist for Global Real Analytics, a San Francisco firm that analyzes commercial real estate markets in the city and around the country.

"They're looking to rent—and rent longer—until they get a better picture of what the housing market is going to do," says Souza, who can view the Noe Valley goings-on up close from his Jersey Street residence.

Souza predicts neighborhood rents will jump another 5 to 7 percent over the next year, as job growth brings in a crowd of new workers—many of whom will gravitate to Noe Valley because of its cachet and prime location for commuting to downtown San Francisco or Silicon Valley.

The housing market, meanwhile, remains strong—just not as crazed as it once was.

Fifteen single-family homes closed es-

Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents September 2006	Average September 2006	Average A Year Ago
Studio	4	\$ 975 – \$2,000	\$1,396 / mo.	\$1,200 / mo.
1-bedroom	16	\$1,300 – \$2,400	\$1,756 / mo.	\$1,575 / mo.
2-bedroom	18	\$1,650 – \$4,500	\$2,804 / mo.	\$2,502 / mo.
3-bedroom	11	\$2,795 – \$6,995	\$3,830 / mo.	\$3,545 / mo.
4+-bedroom	3	\$3,600 – \$6,500	\$5,533 / mo.	\$4,613 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 52 Noe Valley listings appearing on *Craigslist.com* from Sept. 7 to 15, 2006. NVV 10/06

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
August 2006	15	\$657,000	\$2,800,000	\$1,597,000	40	102%
July 2006	16	\$764,000	\$2,450,000	\$1,230,250	27	107%
August 2005	15	\$800,000	\$2,115,000	\$1,247,533	27	116%
Condominiums						
August 2006	12	\$635,000	\$1,200,000	\$866,258	44	103%
July 2006	14	\$635,000	\$1,400,000	\$888,206	34	103%
August 2005	9	\$610,000	\$1,395,000	\$903,333	25	117%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
August 2006	7	\$865,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,401,143	52	105%
July 2006	6	\$1,050,000	\$2,450,000	\$1,381,667	40	94%
August 2005	4	\$950,000	\$1,501,600	\$1,264,150	33	116%
5+-unit buildings						
August 2006	1	\$1,530,000	\$1,530,000	\$1,530,000	84	97%
July 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—
August 2005	0	—	—	—	—	—

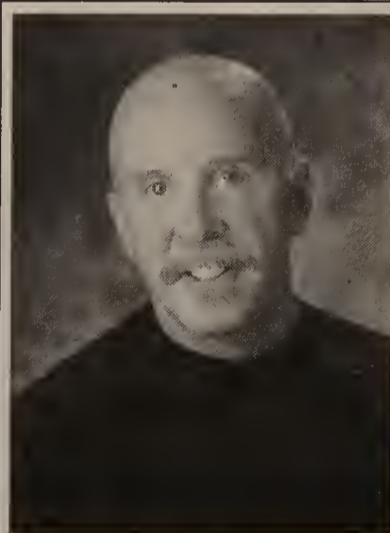
* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data. NVV 10/06

crow in August, the same as a year earlier. But the homes took longer to sell, and buyers no longer paid significantly over the asking price.

All but one of the homes sold for at least \$1 million. Buyers paid \$2.8 million for the most expensive residence: a four-bedroom, 3½-bath home in the 3700

block of 22nd Street between Noe and Sanchez streets.

A four-bedroom, two-bath condominium in the 100 block of 28th Street, between Church and Dolores streets, was the priciest single-family home in August. It was one of 12 condo sales for the month, three more than one year ago. ■



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Linens Night: Jim from Bodrum & Lucha from Xochi will join our in-house style gurus to answer your questions about choosing tablecloths, placemats, & napkins. See and touch samples from both Xochi & Bodrum's entire collection of top quality linens.

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POLICE BEAT

Editor's Note: Police Beat is a review of crime incidents in Noe Valley occurring in the most recent month for which we have statistics. "Noe Valley" in this case is the area bordered by Grand View, 20th, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The August 2006 crime information was culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside Police Stations.

Almost 100 Incidents in August

By Erin O'Briant

San Francisco Police recorded 96 incidents in Noe Valley during the month of August. That number included 17 burglaries of stores, apartment houses, and single-family homes scattered throughout the neighborhood. Twelve drug-related charges were reported (*see story at right*), many of them concentrated north of 24th Street.

Larceny continued apace, with 23 incidents of theft—many from automobiles—and 26 vehicle thefts. As usual, vehicle thefts were concentrated on the eastern side of the neighborhood; six of them happened on Dolores Street. The area near Alvarado School at Alvarado and Douglass streets was also a target of car thieves. Vandals struck several times.

Robberies Continue

The outbreak of street robberies that began in recent months showed no sign of slowing in August, when eight robberies took place in Noe Valley. A person waiting for the bus at Church and Day streets in the early hours of Saturday, Aug. 5, was robbed at gunpoint. Just after midnight on Sunday, Aug. 20, two suspects—one armed with a knife and the other with a baseball bat—approached their victim at Duncan and Church streets.

How to Contact the SFPD

The public is invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly at the Ingleside and Mission Police Stations. Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the bounds of the Mission Police District) may contact Mission Station by calling 558-5400 or e-mailing SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's hotline at 575-4444.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside police by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us. The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984.

For citywide online reporting, go to www.sfgov.org/sitelpolice.

To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Ingleside Capt. Paul Chignell at Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org. To request the Mission e-newsletter, write Capt. John Goldberg at SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report a non-emergency event or problem, call 553-0123.

Drug Arrests Getting High

By Erin O'Briant

In August of 2005, no drug-related incidents were reported in Noe Valley at all. A year later, the August 2006 police log records 12 such cases, up from five in July of this year. Because the police log classifies all incidents related to a drug activity as a narcotics incident, however, those 12 reports actually relate to five drug cases in the neighborhood. All of the suspects were arrested.

A drug-related incident took place on Elizabeth Street the morning of Friday, Aug. 4 (the *Voice* does not publish block numbers for drug-related offenses because they might attract drug solicitations). Police arrested the suspect for possession of cocaine for sales and for resisting arrest and a traffic violation.

At about 2 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6, a person was arrested on 26th Street for transportation and possession of methamphetamines for sale. In an unrelated incident on the same street the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 13, police arrested a suspect for possession of marijuana and being under the influence of alcohol in a public place.

That same day at approximately 11 p.m., police booked a juvenile for possession of rock-base (crack) cocaine for sale on 20th Street. The juvenile was also booked for conspiracy and a traffic violation.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 23, a person was arrested on Castro Street in Noe Valley for petty theft and possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

Nearby Glen Park had no drug-related incidents during August 2006, while north of Noe Valley another 12 drug citations were issued in Mission Dolores, a neighborhood the San Francisco Police Department describes as bordered by Market, Valencia, Church, and 20th streets.

They took the person's money and fled.

A robbery with a gun, in conjunction with domestic violence, took place at 23rd and Douglass streets; police arrested the suspect. Another street robbery with a gun happened at 24th and Diamond streets. Strongarm robberies happened at 24th and Fair Oaks streets, in the 1200 block of Dolores Street, and at Clipper and Sanchez streets. A suspect, who was later arrested, used bodily force to rob a store in the 1300 block of Castro Street in the late afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 23.

The use of guns was not limited to robberies: An aggravated assault with a gun took place at 26th and Church streets in the early morning of Sunday, Aug. 13.

More Arrests Made

In addition to the robbery arrests, police made several other arrests in Noe Valley. On the afternoon of Tuesday, Aug. 1, several officers responded to a report of juveniles breaking the emblems off of cars in the 200 block of 30th Street. One of the juveniles had an emblem on him; he was cited for receiving stolen property, and the other suspects were detained but

released. Police found screwdrivers and other tools discarded in the area.

Two juvenile suspects were arrested after breaking into a house on Elizabeth Street between Vicksburg and Church streets on Sunday, Aug. 20. One of the boys was standing outside as a lookout; officers arrested him upon arrival and arrested his accomplice while he was trying to flee the premises. Witnesses identified the suspects.

When officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Valley Street in the early hours of Thursday, Aug. 24, they found and arrested a juvenile who was wanted on a no-bail juvenile warrant from San Mateo County charging auto theft and receiving stolen property. On the afternoon of Tuesday, Aug. 29, an officer went to Valley and Church streets on a report of a drunken man threatening passersby with a screwdriver. The suspect, who is homeless, was arrested.

The Voice thanks Noe Valley Police Officer Andrew MacIlrath for his help in providing information for this month's Police Beat.

Ways to Prevent Car Theft

By Jon Shephard, SAFE
(Safety Awareness for Everyone)

Have you ever parked your car in a large parking lot or garage, only to return without seeing it immediately? At first, you are annoyed. But as you continue to look for your car, the annoyance is suddenly replaced by fear of *auto theft*, as you see your parking place empty or another vehicle replacing yours in your parking space.

Or, somewhat lower on the aggravation scale is discovering that someone smashed your window and entered your car to steal items you left inside. This lesser aggravation, called *auto burglary*, is also known by its slang term: "auto-boosting."

Here are measures you can take to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of both of these crimes, by preventing access to the car or by slowing down the time it takes for the criminal to do his dirty deed.

◆ Close and lock car doors and windows (including the sun roof). If you leave an animal in the car, open a window as little as possible, but still open it enough to prevent overheating and suffocation.

◆ Never leave your vehicle with the engine running—not even for a second. Theft happens quickly, and the stolen car is more valuable with the key inside with an intact ignition. Also, do not leave a hidden key inside or outside your car. The thieves know where to find it.

◆ Leave nothing, valuable or not, in your car. Especially attractive targets are money, credit cards, cell phones, other electronic equipment, or even compact discs. Anything visible can attract the thief's attention.

◆ At home, park your car in your locked garage or driveway, rather than in the street. Otherwise, park where there is plenty of light and traffic, with people living or walking nearby. This creates potential witnesses and light for them to see thief, who will look for a more attractive target. Also, when you park on the street, curb your wheels, with your breaks on, and the transmission in Park. Make it hard for your car to be moved or towed. Also, never leave your garage door control device in your car.

◆ Use anti-theft devices (like the Club, alarms, disabling devices for steering, breaks, ignition, motor, etc.) and activate them when you park the car. Use special license plate locking screws to make it hard for thieves to remove your license plate during a theft.

◆ Remove papers with your name and address from your vehicle. Keep your car registration certificate with you and the title (pink slip) outside the car in a secure location. Do not have your name and address on your car keys.

For more information about these and other ways to prevent auto theft, contact SAFE at 553-1984 or www.sfsafe@org.



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2005 Photos by Pamela Gerard

and Other Youthful Holiday BOOsters



SHORT TAKES

THE SHORT TAKES ARE COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY ERIN O'BRIANT

Whistle Stop by Gavin Newsom

Mayor Gavin Newsom will address a joint meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club and the Friends of Noe Valley at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Newsom will discuss topics of interest to Noe Valley, as well as to San Francisco as a whole. A brief question-and-answer period will follow his talk. Supervisor Bevan Dufty will introduce the mayor.

After Newsom's presentation, Sarah Lipson, a San Francisco school board member, will speak on Proposition A, the \$450 million city school bond issue on the Nov. 7 ballot. If approved by 55 percent of voters, the measure would pay for upgrades, maintenance, and access at 60 city public schools. It would add an average of \$22 for each \$100,000 of assessed value to San Francisco property taxes over the next 22 years.

The meeting will take place at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond Street, off Elizabeth Street. Parking will be available in a lot on Elizabeth Street behind the church.

Attendance is free and open to the public. For information about the Democratic Club, call Andy Fleischman, 641-5838. To find out more about Friends, contact Richard May at rambooks@pacbell.net.

Treats for People and Pooches

A witch, cauldron, haunted house, free candy, and a dog costume contest are among the pleasures in store for the neighborhood this Halloween.

The Noe Valley Merchants Association has announced that stores and restaurants along 24th Street will welcome kids for trick-or-treating throughout the afternoon of Tuesday, Oct. 31. Many businesses will stay haunted until 7 p.m.

Church Street from 23rd to 30th streets also will be bubbling, with shopkeepers doling out treats all day until 7:30 p.m. Look for special Halloween signs on the shop doors.

Noe Valley Pet Company on Church Street at Cesar Chavez Street is hosting its annual dog costume contest and party on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Pet Poses will be on hand to take photo portraits of dogs and their owners, and a portion of the day's proceeds will go to Rocket Dog Rescue. Co-owner Celia Sack promises treats for any dogs willing to do tricks.

Nearby at Church and 28th streets, the staff at One Stop Party Shop will be working overtime to satisfy the neighborhood's Halloween wishes. Beginning Sunday, Oct. 1, the store will be open seven days a week, from 10 or 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. "During the last two weeks, we have no hours," says owner Mardie Vandervort. "We're here all the time for the customers' convenience." Special Halloween plans include sales on kids' costumes, a cauldron with dry ice, and a resident witch. "We do hand out candy every year, so it'll be fun for the kids," Vandervort says.

According to Hoffman Street resident Marilyn Lucas, the Hoffman Safety Group plans to entertain 300 children at its annual free Halloween celebration. The members of the group "decorate their homes, put on costumes, and welcome the kids," Lucas says, between 6 and 8 p.m. on Halloween night. The haunted houses are located on Hoffman close to 24th and Elizabeth streets. She describes them as "mysterious, spooky, full of delight, and yet scary at the same time."

St. Paul School Turns 90

More than 1,000 former students are expected to attend a mass and reception celebrating St. Paul School's 90th birthday, on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 12:15 p.m.

"At one point, we had 1,500 students at the school," says event committee member Katie O'Shea, "so we have a big alumni base and they love to come back." Archbishop George Niederauer will give the homily and offer mass. Many priests who attended St. Paul's as children will attend the service as well.

After mass at St. Paul's Church, everyone is invited to a reception at the parish center,

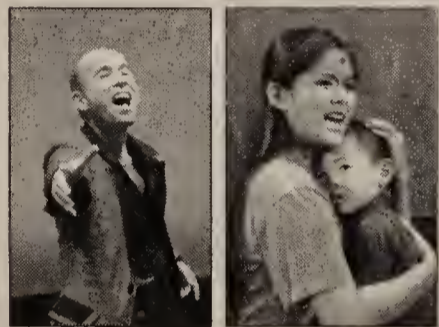
complete with a big display of St. Paul's memorabilia. "There are lots and lots of class pictures, report cards, that kind of thing," says O'Shea. Graduates of the school will have opportunities to reunite with or meet others who graduated in the same decade they did. Sandwiches, cheese, fruit, and other delectables will be on hand. O'Shea estimates the reception will continue until around 4 p.m.

The church and school are located on Church Street between Valley and 29th streets. For more information, call 648-7538.

Locals Star in *Miss Saigon*

Two neighborhood actors have prominent roles in a San Mateo production of *Miss Saigon*, the 1990s Broadway musical about a tragic romance between an American GI and a Vietnamese barmaid. Paul Araquistain, cast as the engineer, one of two male leads, is a Theatre Critics' Circle performance award winner. The other Noe Valley actor is making his professional debut—4-year-old Mark Shibata, who plays Tam. As if two Noe Valley participants weren't enough, Araquistain's roommate, Mark Hanson, is the musical director of the production.

Miss Saigon, presented by the American Musical Theatre of San Jose, runs through Sunday, Oct. 8, at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center at 600 North Delaware Avenue. For tickets and information, call 650-579-5568 or visit www.broadwaybythebay.org. Tickets range from \$15 to \$38; parking is free.



Noe Valley residents Paul Araquistain (left) and 4-year-old Mark Shibata (right, with Catherine Gloria) have key roles in a San Mateo production of the musical *Miss Saigon*. Photos by Nancy Fitzgerald

A Series of Great Guitarists

Two top acoustic guitarists will perform this month as part of the Noe Valley Music Series' new Great Guitarists program. Highly regarded performers Peppino D'Agostino and Enrique Coria will kick off the series on Friday, Oct. 13. D'Agostino's recent works include recordings with guitar master David Tannenbaum, the World Guitar Ensemble, and the children's choir Voena. Coria mixes South American sounds with European classical and jazz traditions. Tickets are \$16 in advance or \$18 at the door.

The series continues in November, when singer/songwriters Jeffrey Halford and Jim Brunberg will perform on Saturday, Nov. 4. On Saturday, Nov. 11, the series features Beth Custer. All performances are 8:15 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. Call 454-5238 or visit www.noevalleymusicseries.com for more information. Advance tickets are available at Streetlight Records at 3979 24th Street near Noe Street.

Inside the Artist's Studio

Discover local art and artists during the annual San Francisco Open Studios. This huge, month-long exhibit and self-guided tour gives art lovers a chance to meet artists, tour their studios, and buy original artwork. More than 700 artists will open their studios to the public during the event.

Beginning on Saturday, Oct. 7, artists' studios will be open to the public on weekends from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. The open dates are grouped by neighborhood for easier touring. Artists in Noe Valley, Bernal Heights, the Castro, Duboce Triangle, Eureka Valley, Glen Park, the Mission, and Portola will be open the weekend of Oct. 14 and 15.

The free SomArts exhibit takes place at 934 Brannan Street from Saturday, Oct. 7, through Sunday, Oct. 29. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from noon until 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. A free opening reception happens in the same place on Oct. 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and other events are scheduled throughout the month. At SomArts, attendees can pick up a copy of the Open Studios Guide, a free 128-page booklet that allows participants to create their own



The original St. Paul School, founded in 1916 at Church and 29th streets, no longer exists. A new modern building, which houses St. Paul's elementary school, took its place in 1999. But the memories are still alive, and up to a thousand former students and staff will come from far and wide on Oct. 22 to celebrate the 90-year institution with a mass and reception at St. Paul's Catholic Church.

studio tour. For more information, including additional places to find the tour guide, visit www.artspan.org or call 861-9839.

Fur Flies at Film Fest

If you love dogs (and who doesn't?), you might want to bound over to the Castro Theatre the weekend of Oct. 7 and 8 for the first annual Canine Film Festival. The event will feature yesteryear's most beloved dog films, along with several new films starring our four-footed friends. "We left no bone unturned" in finding the best canine cinema, says festival producer Maria Goodavage.

Among the movies being screened are *Best in Show*, *The Adventures of Milo and Otis*, *The Shaggy Dog*, a selection of Wallace & Gromit shorts, and the sentimental classic *Old Yeller*. Jan Wahl of KRON-TV will host the Saturday evening program and gala reception, which will feature appearances by Fred Willard and other stars from *Best in Show*. On Sunday evening after *101 Dalmatians*, comedian JoAnne Worley will emcee a Queen of the Fest drag contest.

All profits go to benefit PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), a nonprofit group that feeds and takes care of companion animals for low-income people with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses. Visit www.caninefilmfest.org for the complete schedule. Advance tickets for weekend passes, the gala reception, and individual films are available at www.ticketweb.com. Individual movies are \$10 for adults or \$6 for children 12 and under. Same-day tickets will be available at the theater, located at 429 Castro Street near 18th Street. Sorry, no dogs allowed at the show.

Take the Mystery Out of Mystery Writing

Aspiring mystery writers can learn the secrets of Bay Area mystery-writing celebs at a Mystery Writing and Publishing seminar sponsored by the 826 Valencia tutoring center on Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. The writer-teachers will discuss the tricky craft of keeping readers on the edge of their seats, and give their tips on contacting agents and working with publishing houses.

Noe Valley's own Cara Black, author of the popular Aimée Leduc mystery series, will moderate. Panelists include successful mystery writers Laurie R. King, James Calder, Nadi Gordon, and David Corbett. The seminar will be held at 826 Valencia Street between 19th and 20th streets, and the price is \$50.

To sign up, visit the store's web site at www.826valencia.org, or send payment to 826 Valencia at 826 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Latino Health Fair at Fairmount

More than 100 community organizations will participate in a Latino Health Fair (*Feria de Salud*) at Fairmount Elementary School on Saturday, Oct. 7. The event, which runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., will offer free blood pressure and diabetes screenings, breast examinations, and glucose testing, provided by St. Luke's Hospital staff. The health fair is organized by the American Heart Association, the Latina Breast Cancer Agency, On Lok Senior Health, the San Francisco Unified School District, and the Mexican Consulate.

Though the event is geared primarily for members of the Latino community, all are welcome. Fairmount Elementary School is located at 65 Chenery Street at Randall Street.

Questions? Call On Lok's outreach coordinator, Maria Martínez-Mont, at 550-2235.

Mid-Air Dance at BART

Four dancers will suspend themselves from a billboard design in a free outdoor dance performance in the BART Plaza at 24th and Mission streets during the month of October. The Live Billboard Project premiere performance will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 9:30 p.m. Subsequent performances are scheduled for 8 and 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, through Sunday, Oct. 8, and Thursday, Oct. 12, through Saturday, Oct. 14.

The performance aims to highlight the loss of public space to corporate advertising. The dance is choreographed by Jo Kreiter with original music by Carla Hihlstedt, and is co-presented by Dancers Group. For more information, visit www.flyawayproductions.com or call 920-9181.

Free Jazz for the Soul

The Noe Valley Ministry is beginning a new monthly offering of free jazz performances on Sunday afternoons. The first jazz vespers, which features professional local musicians in a sacred setting, takes place on Sunday, Oct. 22, from 5 to 6 p.m. According to Pastor Keenan Kelsey, the choice of a jazz vespers is particularly appropriate because the church was the birthplace of jazz.

The initial program features the Mad and Eddie Duran Quartet. Mad Duran plays tenor, alto, and soprano saxophones, flute, and alto flute, while her husband, Eddie Duran, showcases his experience as a jazz guitarist, composer, and arranger. The concert will be upstairs at the Ministry, which is located at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street. Child care will be provided, and attendees will get to enjoy refreshments and conversation with the musicians after the vespers. To find out more, call the church at 282-2317.

Recycle Those Clunky Computers

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and the San Francisco Clean City Coalition will hold an Electronic Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, Oct. 14, at James Lick Middle School at 1220 Noe Street.

"This is a chance for people to drop off their old monitors, TVs, computers, and printers," says Rodney Clara of Supe Bevan Dufty's office, which helped organize the event.

Clara says the James Lick parking lot at 25th and Noe streets will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and volunteers will be on hand to unload electronic equipment.

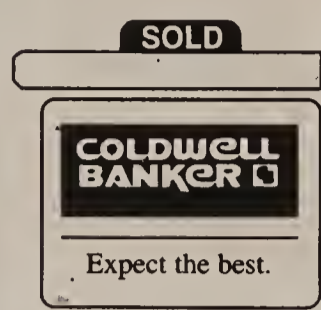
If you have questions or want to help out, call Dufty's office at 554-6968 or visit the Clean City Coalition at www.sfcleancity.com.

Please RSVP

The nonprofit Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for men and women 55 and older to join its team of volunteers in San Francisco's public schools. Volunteers can work with students of any age, and choose from a variety of options, including after-school tutoring. RSVP especially seeks bilingual volunteers.

The organization's mission is to help older adults, retired or not, find volunteer opportunities in their local community. RSVP San Francisco currently has 800 volunteers serving in over 100 San Francisco nonprofit organizations. To sign up, call 731-3335 or go to www.rsvpsf.org.

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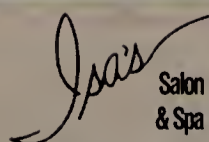
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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature introducing new shops and cafes in Noe Valley. This month we spotlight two new restaurants, Toast and Tamasei Sushi. Each has taken the place of an eatery with a long tradition in the neighborhood.

TOAST
1748 Church Street at Day Street
415-282-4328
www.toasteatery.com

For those who mourned the loss of Hungry Joe's, the venerable breakfast diner on Church near Day Street, the opening of Toast in the same spot in early September was a big relief: the new café serves a lot of the same fare—egg dishes, burgers, and sandwiches—but now there are salads on the menu, too.

"We feel like we've been here 10 years already!" says co-owner Eddie Naser, who also operates a similar restaurant called the Grind on Haight Street.

With the assistance of his two partners—older brother Anis, a dentist with a practice in Noe; and younger brother Kamal, a cameraman for the San Francisco Giants and 49ers—Naser completely remodeled the 600-square-foot space, putting in a new kitchen, bright yellow paint on the walls, new tables and chairs, and six shiny stools at a sleek new counter.

The brothers have had to make a few adjustments, though. "It's much smaller than the Grind, and here we have table service," Naser notes. Toast can comfortably seat about 40 customers—28 inside and a dozen or so more at outdoor tables.

Since its Sept. 5 opening, the restaurant has been packed with a receptive and hungry crowd. On sunny days, people lunch outside with their kids and dogs, just as they did when the place was Hungry Joe's. But patrons can also return for dinner: Toast keeps the lights on much later than did the previous café.

"We're open till nine o'clock at night," says Naser, except for Sundays, when doors close at 4 p.m. "We need to catch our breath."

Naser, a San Francisco native who grew up in the Sunset District, describes the menu as basic "comfort food." So far, he says, the most popular dishes are the classic burger (Niman Ranch beef, \$6.50), the chicken caesar salad (\$8.50), and the corned beef hash (topped with



Toast co-owner Kamal Naser welcomes customers James Guzzi and Sarah Gion.

two eggs, \$8.50). Another favorite is the pear salad with cranberries, candied walnuts, and crumbled blue cheese (\$8.50).

Breakfast is served all day. Customers can order the Day Street Omelet (chicken apple sausage, feta cheese, and sun dried tomatoes, \$8.50), the Delox Omelet (fresh lox, tomatoes, cream cheese, and capers, \$9.50), or Sourdough French Toast (dipped in a vanilla, cream, and cinnamon egg batter, \$5.75).

Naser admits the prices are a bit higher than Hungry Joe's, but the servings are ample. "We like to keep the food simple, good, and filling."

He also knows that if you're feeding Noe Valley, you're feeding the young 'uns, too. The café's Kids' Menu supplies the under-8 crowd with scrambled eggs (plus hash browns), french toast sticks, a fruit bowl, and sandwiches like peanut butter and jelly, grilled cheese, chicken nuggets, and mini-cheeseburgers. The children's meals range from \$2 to \$4, and milk and apple juice come kid-sized, too.

Thirsty adults have a choice of domestic or imported beer and wine (\$2.50 to \$4.50 a glass). "And mimosas seven days a week!" says Naser. Coffee is from local organic roaster Mr. Espresso, and lattes, mochas, and cappuccinos are standard offerings (\$1.50 to \$3.50).

Naser says he's ready to take on a booming business in the small Noe Valley café. "We picked this spot because we already knew what a wonderful neighborhood this is. We aim to please, and we'll be on our toes!"

Toast is open every day, starting at 7 a.m.

—Heidi Anderson

TAMASEI SUSHI
3856 24th Street near Vicksburg Street
415-282-7989

Everyone in Noe Valley loved Matsuya, Fusai Ponne's longtime sushi bar on 24th Street, so the neighborhood was saddened when Ponne decided to close her doors. But fear not, Noe Valleyans: Koichi and Hiroko Tamano have moved in, renamed the shop Tamasei Sushi, and little, if anything, has changed.

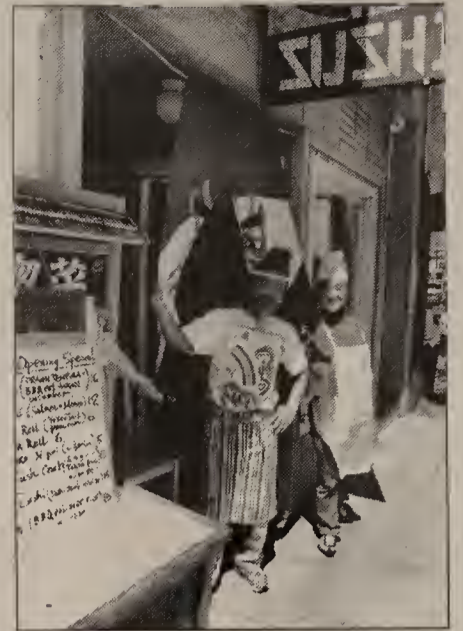
The shop still has a friendly local vibe, and it certainly hasn't gotten any larger. With only three tables for four, and seats at the bar for seven people squeezed closely together, the tiny shop turns out *nigiri* (tuna, eel, or other varieties of raw fish over rice); *makimono* (rolls of fish or vegetables and rice wrapped in seaweed); and *donburi* rice bowls. You can sample the smaller sushi plates for \$5 to \$8.

Soft koto music plays in the background while locals and strangers banter back and forth with the Tamanos. Everyone seems to know each other, which is a good thing since there is hardly any space for a private conversation.

"Eleven years," Koichi says, referring to the amount of time he and his wife have been restaurateurs (they previously operated Country Station Sushi on Mission Street). But Koichi also says, "Before that, for 40 years, I was a dancer," because in his other life, Koichi Tamano is a renowned Butoh dancer and choreographer. He and Hiroko have traveled through Japan and around the world, performing with notables like Butoh originator Tatsumi Hijikata (who called his star pupil Koichi his "bowlegged Nijinsky"). New Age artist Kitaro even dedicated his latest CD to Koichi.

In his chef persona, Koichi may suggest you try the Typhoon Roll, with salmon and sweet mango (\$12); the fish and sushi combo (eight nigiri and one roll, with miso soup, \$20); or a Dragon Roll, with shrimp, tempura, eel, avocado, and cucumber (\$16).

Hiroko will bring it to you, well, when she's ready. With room for only one chef



Koichi and Hiroko Tamano stay busy in their tiny sushi bar on 24th Street.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

and one server, things can take a while at Tamasei. "Don't worry, don't worry, excuse me, thank you, I'm coming," Hiroko says, twisting her way through her customers to carry a full nigiri tray to the window table at the front of the shop. "The food is good, it's worth waiting."

Though the Tamanos live in Berkeley, they love the idea of having a restaurant in Noe Valley. "The Mission was hard," Koichi says. "Japanese people didn't want to come there. Noe Valley is much nicer. Everybody is very friendly. We've had no problems."

Noe Valley diners will be enthused at the absence of killer amounts of salt in Koichi Tamano's preparations—you can taste the fish without guzzling glass after glass of water.

Tamasei Sushi is open from 3 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The restaurant is closed on Sunday and Monday.

—Doug Konecky



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• OCTOBER 2006 •

Oct. 1-8: Noe Valley residents Paul Araquistain and 4-year-old MARK SHIBATA star in the American Musical Theater of San Jose's performance of *Miss Saigon*. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 2 pm. San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware, San Mateo. 650-579-5565.

Oct. 1-31: Myriad musicians play Afro-Cuban salsa, Latin funk, samba, hip-hop, and reggae nightly at the ELBO ROOM. 9 pm. 647 Valencia St. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

Oct. 1-31: The Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60 on weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-1030.

Oct. 1-31: Precita Eyes Mural Arts offers after-school ART CLASSES, including mask, costume, and jewelry creation for kids ages 5 to 10. Tues. & Thurs., 3:30-5:30 pm. 348 Precita Ave. 285-2311.

Oct. 1-31: The NOE STROLLS "playgroup on wheels" gets rolling at 11 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Holey Bagel. 3872 24th St. www.noestrolls.com.

Oct. 1-31: "The QUILTS of Gee's Bend" features more than 60 fabric creations made by four generations of African American women. Tues.-Sun., 9:30 am-5:15 pm; Fri. until 8:45 pm. Free admission first Tuesday of each month. Oe Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr. 863-3330; www.thinker.org.

Oct. 1-31: Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. & Tues., 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

Oct. 2-30: Find a thrilling page-turner at the S.F. Library's BOOKMOBILE, parked at 665 Elizabeth between Castro and Diamond. Mon. & Wed., 10:30 am-1 pm. 557-4353.

Oct. 3: Celebrate Latino Hispanic Heritage Month with Susan Pena and Miguel Govea, for ages 5 and under. 10:30 am. Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616.

Oct. 3: League of Women Voters hosts a forum, ELECTION 2006. 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 989-VOTE; www.lwvsl.org.

Oct. 3: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

Oct. 3-31: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple offers introductory BUDDHIST MEDITATION classes. Tues., 7-8:30 pm; Sun., 10-11:30 am. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24: THEOLOGY on Tap is a series of discussions of faith, politics, and ethics designed for young adults in their 20s and 30s, sponsored by USF. 7 pm. Ireland's 32, 3920 Geary Blvd. 422-2531.

Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24: PRESCHOOL STORY TIME for ages 3-5 begins at 10:30 am. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740; www.stpl.org.

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 31: Librarians from the Noe Valley Library offer LAPSITS for babies and toddlers at 10:15 am, and preschool STORY TIME at 11 am on Tuesdays. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

Oct. 4-14: OANCERS perform "The Live Billboard Project" while suspended on an outdoor billboard. Oct. 4, 9:30 pm; Oct. 5-8 and 12-14, 8 pm and 9:30 pm. BART Plaza, 24th and Mission. 920-9181.

Oct. 5: Upper Noe Neighbors sponsors a LUNCHEON to benefit On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center; Or. Gene Cohen talks on aging and creativity. 11:30 am-1:30 pm. The City Club, 155 Sansome St. 550-2223.

Oct. 5: CINOY SHEEHAN discusses her book *Peace Mom: A Mother's Journey Through Heartache to Activism*. 7 pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

Oct. 5: NINA JABLONSKI, Ph.D., gives a lecture on "Human Skin: Past, Present, and Future." 8 pm. Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. 321-8000.

Oct. 5-7: THE MARSH presents Roy Zimmerman's "Faulty Intelligence." 8 pm. 1062 Valencia Street. 800-838-3006; www.the-marsh.org.

Oct. 5-8: ARTSHIP Dance/Theater performs "Tarantella, Tarantula." Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 2:30 pm. OOC Theater, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Oct. 5-31: "The Beat Goes On" is a visual tribute to MUSIC IDOLS, including Rod Stewart, Billie Holiday, and Led Zeppelin, by artists with developmental disabilities. Mon.-Fri. 10 am-3 pm, Sat. 1-6 pm. Creativity Explored, 3245 16th St. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org.



San Francisco Amateur Astronomers presents a free lecture presentation with astronomy artist Lynette Cook at 8 pm on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at the Randall Museum. Pictured: Image from Dava Sobel's "The Planets."

Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26: Older Writers Laboratory presents a free poetry workshop for seniors, led by Brent Armendinger. 1:30-3:30 pm. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland Ave. 355-2810.

Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26: San Francisco Sound Wave invites women to join their BARBERSHOP harmony group. 7 pm. 665-7960.

Oct. 6-15: Noe Valley's own Michael Smuin kicks off the 2006-07 season of the SMUIN BALLET with the world premiere of "Obri-gado, Brazil." Tues.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 pm and 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Palace of Fine Arts Theater, 3301 Lyon St. www.smuinballet.org.

Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Find out what's for lunch at the 2 pm SNAKE FEEDING at the California Academy of Sciences. 875 Howard St. 321-8000; www.calacademy.org.

Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27: LIVE JAZZ at Bird & Beckett Books & Records features Oon Prell's SeaBop Ensemble (Oct. 6 and 20), The Jimmy Ryan Quartet (Oct. 13), and the Henry Irvin Quartet featuring vocalist Dorothy Lefkowitz (Oct. 27). 5:30-8 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733; www.bird-beckett.com.

Oct. 7: Families with kids age 7 and older are invited to take a free BIRTHING WALK. 10 am-noon. Meet at the bookstore near the Main Gate of the Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park. 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

Oct. 7: Hike from the Presidio to the Mission to celebrate San Francisco's 230th ANNIVERSARY. 10 am-1 pm. Meets at Presidio Officers Club, walk concludes at Mission Dolores. 561-7752; www.crispyfield.org.

Oct. 7: A HEALTH FAIR especially for the Latino community includes free blood pressure, diabetes, and breast exam screenings by St. Luke's Hospital. 10 am-4 pm. Fairmont School, 65 Chenery St. 550-2235.

Oct. 7: Fiber artisans Laura and Karyn Chinn Smoot give a spinning wheel demonstration at the Randall Museum. 1-4 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

Oct. 7: Mel Brooks' COMEDY CLASSIC *Young Frankenstein* will be shown outdoors in Olores Park, part of the park film series sponsored by the S.F. Neighborhood Theater Foundation. 8 pm. www.shntf.org.

Oct. 7 & 8: Four paws up for the first annual CANINE FILM FESTIVAL, featuring *Best in Show*, *The Shaggy Dog*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Old Yeller*, and *Wallace & Gromit* shorts, to benefit PAWS. Castro Theater, 429 Castro St. 979-9550; www.caninefilmfest.org.

Oct. 7 & 8: LITOUAKE features readings by 75 authors including Barry Gifford, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Hack Hirschman. Sat., 11 am-5 pm; Sun., 12:30 pm-4:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. www.litquake.org.

Oct. 7 & 8: David Hegarty plays an ORGAN POPS concert. 4-4:45 pm. Legion of Honor. 863-3330; www.thinker.org.

Oct. 7-31: "Hidden Meanings: Symbolism in CHINESE ARTS" exhibits and explains more than 100 artworks. Tues.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm, Thurs., 10 am-9 pm. Free the first Tuesday of the month. Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St. 581-3500; www.asianart.org.

Oct. 7, 14 & 28: The Mission Library offers family STORY TIME IN SPANISH for children of all ages. Noon. 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800; www.stpl.org.

Oct. 8: The SIPPY CUPS perform "Electric Storyland," a rock and roll circus based on their new CD. 1 and 4 pm. Brava Theater, 2781 24th St. 335-4422.

Oct. 9: Stephen Elliott hosts the final event of the Progressive REAOING SERIES, benefiting progressive congressional candidates and featuring Mary Roach, Eric B. Martin, Kauli Hart Hemmings, Keith Knight, and Nora Pierce. 7 pm. The Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd St. 647-2888.

Oct. 10: Author Michelle Tea hosts the Radar SALON Series. 7-8:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616.

Oct. 10, 24 & 31: Librarians present LAPSITS for infants and toddlers at 10:30 am, and STORY TIME at 3:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616.

Oct. 11: An open meditative walk on the Noe Valley Ministry's LABYRINTH begins at 6:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 648-1030.

Oct. 11: Historian John Martini discusses fortifications around the San Francisco Bay during the CIVIL WAR. 7-8 pm. Presidio Officers' Club. 561-5500; www.presidio.gov.

Oct. 12: St. Luke's Hospital holds a VOL-UNTEER orientation the second Thursday of the month. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538.

Oct. 13: The Noe Valley Music Series hosts an evening of great GUITARISTS with Pep-pino O'Agostino and Enrique Coria. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

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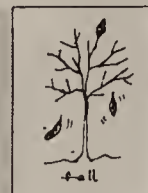
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CALENDAR



Oct. 14: Recycle your old TVs, monitors, printers, and computers at an ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING Day sponsored by the city. 8 am-5 pm. James Lick School, 1220 Noe St. 850-9492.

Oct. 14: Make tracks to the annual DDG-GONE FUN RUN fundraiser for PAWS and the San Francisco SPCA, featuring music, games, and a canine fashion show. 9 am; 5K pledge run/walk begins at 10 am. Speedway Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 554-3007 or visit www.doggonefunrun.org.

Oct. 14: Learn about DROUGHT-TOLERANT GARDENING at Garden for the Environment's workshop. 10 am-1 pm. 7th Ave. at Lawton St. 731-5627.

Oct. 14: San Francisco Botanical Garden's October PLANT SALE features trees, ferns, and rhododendrons. 10 am-1 pm, SF Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

Oct. 14: LIT CRAWL, the closing night of the Lit Duque literary festival, wends its way up and down Valencia Street with events at venues including Intersection, 446 Valencia (5:30 pm), and Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. (7:15 pm). 626-2787.

Oct. 14: Kung Pao Kosher Comedy presents the 3rd annual GEDRGE BUSH Going Away Party: An Evening of Political Comedy, with four comedians including Noe Valley's Alana Devich. 8 pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. www.koshercomedy.com.

Oct. 14: Irregular Resolutions presents its FALL CONCERT with pieces by Carol Belcher, Harry Bernstein, John Bilotta, and others, performed by the Presidio Ensemble. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015; www.slcm.org.

Oct. 14 & 15: Artists in Noe Valley, Bernal Heights, Castro, Duboce, Eureka Valley, Glen Park, Mission, and Portola open their doors for the 2006 OPEN STUDIOS. 11 am-6 pm. www.artspan.org.

Oct. 15: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents the Ives String Quartet with the Mockingbird Quartet and violist Jodi Levitz. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org.

Oct. 16: Community Health Resource Center offers a free seminar on long-term care INSURANCE. 10 am-11:30 am. California Pacific Medical Center. 2100 Webster St., Suite 106. 923-3155; www.cpmc.org.

Oct. 17: A MYSTERY WRITING workshop, moderated by Noe Valley author Cara Black, features panelists Laurie R. King, James Calder, Nadi Gordon, and David Corbett. 6-9 pm. 826 Valencia St. 642-5905; www.826valencia.org/workshops/adult.

Oct. 17: "On My Mind" includes six strange SHORT PLAYS, script in hand, by John Robinson. 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235.

Oct. 18: Those who wish to care for children in their home are invited to a free CHILDCARE LICENSING orientation and workshop at the Children's Council. Orientation, 9-11:30 am; workshop, 12:30-3:30 pm. 445 Church St. 343-3333.

Oct. 18: Mayor GAVIN NEWSOM and school board member Sarah Lipson are among the speakers at a joint meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club and Friends of Noe Valley. 6:30 pm. St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. 641-5838 or e-mail rambooks@pacbell.net.

Oct. 18 & 25: POETRY Writing for Teens is a 10-week class for ages 13 through 19. 4-6 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4497.

Oct. 21: The second annual Noe Valley HARVEST FESTIVAL features performances by Groovus, Playdate, Nitecaps, and juggler Greg Frisbee, plus exhibits by 76 artists. 10 am-5 pm. 24th Street between Sanchez and Church; www.nvharvestfestival.com.

Oct. 21: The annual WHOLESALE GEM show at Forbeadin' runs from 11 am to 5 pm. 1195 Church St. 641-1414; www.forbeadin.com.

Oct. 21: Anita De Lucio-Brock creates a DAY OF THE DEAD altar and talks about its history. Noon. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800.

Oct. 21: Daniel Camacho hosts a papier-mache workshop for DIA DE LOS MUERTOS. 1-4 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 821-1155. www.missioncultural-center.org.

Oct. 21: Calling all members of Washington High's class of 1976: a 30-YEAR REUNION at Rasselas Jazz Club runs from 8 pm to 1:30 am. 1534 Fillmore St. 987-9727.

Oct. 21 & 22: SECONDHAND CHIC sale to benefit Raphael House shelter offers books, art, dishes, shoes, kids clothing, and toys. 10 am-5 pm. Herbst Hall in the Presidio. 474-4621; rhangel@raphaelhouse.org.

Oct. 21 & 22: Modern Times Bookstore's 35th BIRTHDAY BASH celebrates with two days of musicians, performers, and refreshments. Sat., 2 pm; Sun. benefit dinner at 6:30 pm. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

Oct. 22: St. Paul's Elementary School celebrates its 90th BIRTHDAY with a mass followed by a reception featuring memorabilia and refreshments. 12:15 pm. Church and Valley streets. 648-7538.

Oct. 22: LÉDIA CARROLL describes the shoreline of the historic "Lago Dolores" in her Mission Lake Project. Lakeside BBO and music. 2-5 pm. Mission Park, Valencia between 19th and 20th. www.sogex.org.

Oct. 22: POETS David Meltzer and Diane Di Prima host a benefit reading for Bird & Beckett Books & Records. 4:30 pm. 2788 Diamond St. Limited seating; for advance tickets: 586-3733; www.bird-beckett.com.

Oct. 22: A JAZZ VESPER concert features the Mad and Eddie Duran Quartet. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

Oct. 24: Lisa Atkinson leads a CHILDREN'S SING-ALONG at 10:30 am. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

Oct. 24: John Freeman discusses the rebuilding of San Francisco after the 1906

EARTHQUAKE and fire. 8 pm. Mission High Auditorium, 16th & Church. 750-9986.

Oct. 25: Activists Andy Pugni and Erica Swinney will discuss TRASH AND TOXICS. 8 pm. Counterpulse, 1310 Mission St. 626-2060; www.shapingsf.org.

Oct. 26: Today is the deadline to enter the "Mole to Die For" CONTEST, sponsored by the Mission Cultural Center. For info, 821-1155 or www.missionculturalcenter.org.

Oct. 26: The kids are welcome at Peekaboo-tique's PARENTS' NIGHT, featuring discussion, music, and drinks. 5:30-8:30 pm. 1306 Castro St. 641-6192.

Oct. 26: Want to become a life coach? Life Coach Ruth Cardillo talks about this growing field. 7-8 pm. 1342 Church St. 550-1504.

Oct. 26: Upper Noe Neighbors meets at 7:30 pm. 30th Street Senior Center, 225-30th St. 285-0473.

Oct. 28: A RUMMAGE SALE, featuring almost everything under the sun, benefits the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:30 am-3 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

Oct. 28: Older Women's League (DWL) of San Francisco presents a free workshop discussing FUNERAL COSTS. 10 am-noon. Flood Building, 870 Market St., Room 1185; 989-4422.

Oct. 28: Wear a costume and join in the "ghoulish games, creepy crafts, and pumpkin-carving" at the free FAMILY HALLOWEEN DAY at the Randall Museum. 10 am-2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

Oct. 28: Celebrate an environmentally-aware Halloween at Crissy Field's HALLOWEEN PARTY. Kids age 9 and up are invited to the House of Toxic Horrors, "full of stufgy, smoggy ghosts, and goblins in a crazy, cool maze of enviro-horror," from 10 am to 2 pm and 4 to 8 pm. 561-7690.

Oct. 28: ART IN THE PARK, a free public showing of new designs for the park, with live music, chalk art, pumpkin sculptures, arts and crafts. Noon-3 pm. Juri Commons Park, between Guerrero and 25th and 26th streets. 517-0045.

Oct. 28: Noe Valley author BILL YENNE signs his photography book, *San Francisco Then and Now*. 1 pm. Costco, 450 10th St. 626-4589.

Oct. 28: BOO AT THE ZOO features animals doing the "Pumpkin Stomp and Chomp," a Haunted Nature Trail, and "Creepy, Crawley Critters" in the Insect Zoo. 10 am-3 pm. Great Highway at Sloat Blvd. 753-7071; www.sfzoo.org.

Oct. 29: A dog costume contest and kids activities at PET PRIDE DAY benefit San Francisco Animal Care and Control. 11 am-3 pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 554-9427; www.petprideday.com.

Oct. 29: Noe Valley author Janis Cooke Newman reads and signs her book *Mary, A Novel* (about Mary Todd Lincoln); proceeds benefit Synergy School. 4 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

Oct. 30: A main parade ground WDRKSHDP updates plans for rehabilitation of the Presidio's largest open space. 6:30 pm. Presidio Officer's Club, 50 Moraga Ave. 561-5418; www.presidio.gov.

Oct. 31: Merchants on 24th Street and Church Street from 24th to 30th Street invite kids in costume to TRICK-DR-TREAT all day. Hoffman Street is also open for thrills and chills from 6 to 8 pm. Happy Halloween.

November Deadline

The next issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* will land in Downtown Noe Valley on or about Nov. 1. So, we'd like to have your calendar items by **Oct. 15**, please. Send e-mails to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Or you may write *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take priority, but we try to squeeze in as many other nuggets as possible.

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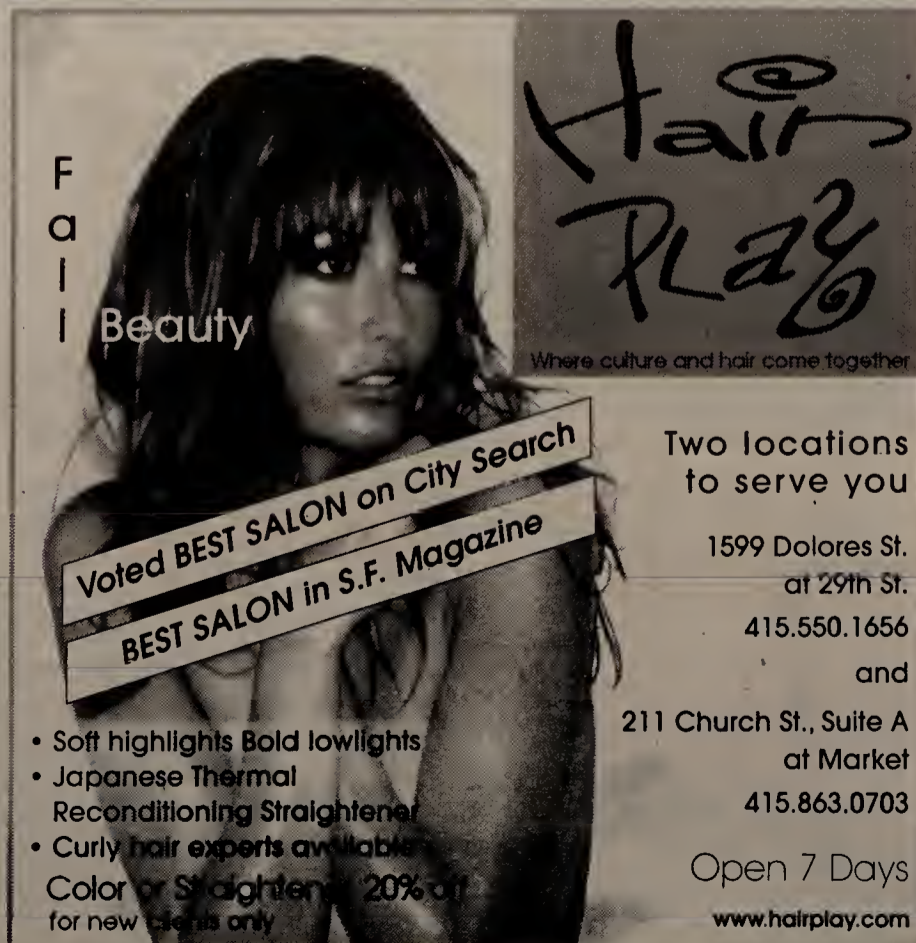
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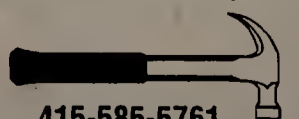


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Noe Valley Faces

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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Adults may recognize her as the longtime manager of Phoenix Books and Records on 24th Street, but Noe Valley kids know **Alison Levy** as one of their idols in the psychedelic kid-rock band the Sippy Cups. Levy plays keyboards, sings vocals, and writes songs for the band, which is releasing its third CD and launching a 10-stop concert tour this month. In San Francisco, the "Electric Storyland: A Rock-and-Roll Extravaganza for Families" begins Oct. 8 at the Brava Theatre and winds up Dec. 10 at the Great American Music Hall. But the tour goes all over the Bay Area and beyond. A highlight of the shows will be a Nov. 4 gig at the House of Blues in Los Angeles, presented by KCRW Radio.

The Cups, made up of five musicians and a juggler, play their own tunes, and

music ranging from Beatles and Pink Floyd to David Bowie and the Ramones. Their young fans "go crazy," says Levy. "They jump up and down, and really respond to the high energy [especially] of the Ramones. The kids rush the stage—they climb up on stage and sing along. But we encourage it," she laughs.

Levy says the group is excited about the new CD, *Electric Storyland*, which will be on the counter at Phoenix Books the minute it's released (due Oct. 3; for the latest news, go to www.thesippycups.com). The album has all original songs, including the popular "Little Puffer," about the train at the San Francisco Zoo, and another of the band's hits, "Magic Toast." "That's about how putting jelly on your toast is the kind of thing that can make the whole day better."

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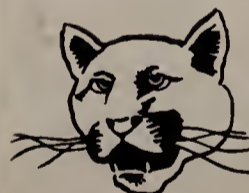
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October Readers Review

Most of our Noe travelers are now safe at home with tales to tell. So here's a sampling from our summer mailbox. If you'd like to fill us in on your own adventures, you can do so by mailing your photos and caption information to: *Noe Valley Voice*, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or you can e-mail your images to editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Do it today. We're sure you've got lots to say and you'll look great in our pages.



It's a long way from Noe Valley to Norway. But **Heike Baars** and her rock-climbing friend were determined to get a photo of their favorite periodical in the last town on the southwestern end of the islands of Lofoten. They had success in the town of Å in June.

Photo by Wes Wagnon



Trudy May (center) posed this summer with granddaughter **Danika Lutge** and son **Ethan** in Riomaggiore, one of five towns that make up the Cinque Terre in Italy. Though Trudy has carried a copy of the *Voice* on many of her travels, this is the first time she was able to line up a photo.



Anthony Koh-Bell and **Audrey Koh** weren't able to find coverage of the World Cup in their copies of the *Noe Valley Voice* when they visited Shanghai, China, in mid-June, even though they packed copies of two different editions. Our apologies. The *Voice* sports editor was on vacation.

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FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

An Artful Summer

In this column, reprinted from September 1992, Florence Holub takes a look at her plums, Bill Clinton, and a 10-year photography project her husband, Leo Holub, completed at the request of art patrons Harry W. and Mary Margaret Anderson. Luckily for present-day readers, a selection of Leo's photographs from the Anderson Collection will be on display at Stanford University this month (through Oct. 29), in an exhibition titled, "Studio Access:



The Photographs of Leo Holub." Leo and Florence are pleased to invite the neighborhood to the show and reception, which will take place on Thursday, Oct. 12, 5 to 7 p.m., at the Stanford Art Gallery. For more information, go to art.stanford.edu.

Autumn is already upon us, and I can't help but wonder where the summer has gone. Well, let's see. First, my man Leo traveled to New York for five weeks, and then our son, who lives in Alaska, paid us a visit for about the same length of time.

I remained close to home, partly to fulfill my museum docent commitments but also to tend to our plum tree in the back yard, which produced the usual bumper crop. I stayed busy climbing, plucking, processing, and foisting off plums on anyone showing the slightest interest.

Of course, the Democratic Convention kept me glued to the TV set, and when we heard that Bill Clinton would speak at 24th and Mission, Helen Lundy, my neighbor, and I put on our walking shoes and rushed down the hill to join the cheering, packed-like-sardines mob.

Then back to the plums.

Leo's summer was also fruitful. By the time this column is in print, he will have returned from yet another journey, this one to the Southwest.

For the past six years, Leo has been working on a major commission: photographing all of the living artists in the Anderson Collection, one of the largest and finest collections of 20th-century modern art in the United States. The collection was featured on the front page of the Style section of the July 26, 1992, *San Francisco Examiner*, after the Andersons donated seven paintings (valued at \$4 to \$6 million) to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Peninsula dwellers Harry W. Anderson, known as "Hunk," his wife Mary Margaret Anderson, known as "Moo," and their daughter, "Putter," are true collectors! Together they have amassed 1,100 pieces, and they continue to search out and upgrade their fabulous collection of contemporary painting, sculpture, and prints, dating from the end of World War II.

Leo's assignment came about as a result of his longstanding acquaintance with the Anderson family. They first became familiar with his work 30 years ago, after Leo began taking photographs

of the gifted artists he met at Stanford University. (From 1969 to 1980, Leo was head of the photography studio within Stanford's Art Department. In fact, he founded the program.)

Over the years, he has been taking "environmental portraits" of these artists at work, and has documented for posterity such names as Frank Lobdell, Nathan Oliveira, Richard Diebenkorn, and Wayne Thiebaud (who for a period painted in Noe Valley, and whose cityscapes feature some of our steep streets). Noe Valley painter Paul Wonner and Glen Park artist Bruce Conner are also on the list, which now numbers 100 artists.

So far, the Anderson Collection project has taken Leo on three trips to New York, and each has proven to be an exciting, challenging experience. On the first trip in 1986, he recorded 24 giants of modern art, including Helen Frankenthaler, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Motherwell, Frank Stella, and the artist couple Coosje van Bruggen and Claes Oldenburg.

Just making contact with the artists has been difficult, though, because many of these successful, hard-working individuals are reluctant to let you interrupt their creative process. But sometimes a phone call from the patron will open the door. Or sometimes a chance meeting at a gallery opening presents an opportunity to make a personal plea.

At one exhibition we attended here in San Francisco, Leo and I were introduced to Roy De Forest, a much sought-after artist on the list. When Leo broached the subject of taking his picture, De Forest hesitated, saying that the last photographer he'd permitted to visit him had stayed for three days! But Leo assured the otherwise affable artist that the photo session would be a snap, so to speak. A few days later, Leo was in and out of De Forest's studio in an hour.

On his second trip to New York in 1989, Leo photographed 15 artists (including the famous Robert Rauschenberg) and even found the time to climb the Statue of Liberty—all within five weeks!

Finding living space, even temporarily, is almost impossible in New York,



Leo Holub posed minimalist painter Agnes Martin in front of a wall hanging she'd acquired in India. The photo was taken in New Mexico in 1992. Martin died in 2004.



A photograph of British painter David Hockney, taken in Los Angeles in 1989, will be included in an October exhibition at Stanford University of Leo Holub's portraits of 20th-century modern artists commissioned by the Anderson family. Leo photographed Hockney with his pet dachshund and paintings of his friends.



Coosje van Bruggen (left) and Claes Oldenburg are the artists who created the monumental sculpture *Cupid Span* on the Embarcadero in San Francisco. This photo, also part of Leo Holub's Anderson portfolio, was shot in New York in 1986, in front of the couple's sculpture *Soft Switch*.

but Leo has a number of former students who have helped out with accommodations. On the first trip, ex-student photographer Lorie Novak came up with a convenient studio belonging to a friend going on vacation. On the second trip, another student, Michele La Gamba, found a friend who agreed to share his condo with Leo.

This young roommate proved to be a charming man, the manager of an exclusive menswear department at Bloomingdale's. His elegant condominium was located in the newly developed Battery Park City, close to the harbor where the ferries go back and forth to the Statue of Liberty.

During the last week of Leo's visit, a beautiful fashion model—a friend who also needed a place to stay—moved into the living room. A few days later, more friends of the family arrived: two glamorous Miss Universe contestants, who

proceeded to join the model in the living room. Soon the condo was filled with activity, laughter, and jars of makeup. This proved to be the highlight of Leo's trip...and maybe his life!

Leo made his third excursion to New York last May, visiting 14 studios, including those of Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, and Martin Puryear.

And now he is on the verge of completing the project, which will be comprised of four volumes, each containing 50 prints (two of each artist) within a hand-bound portfolio. In mid-August, he loaded his Datsun with camera equipment and headed for New Mexico, where he planned to capture the last remaining artists on his list: Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, and Susan Rothenberg.

Although Leo always invites me to accompany him on these treks, I am loathe to leave our comfortable Noe Valley haven. I will admit, however, that this last trip was a temptation. I've always wanted to see the cliff dwellings of the earliest inhabitants of the Americas, which are located primarily in Arizona and New Mexico.

But fate intervened in the form of a summons to appear for jury duty in San Francisco Superior Court. The letter specifically stated no excuse, short of a dire emergency, would be accepted. Oh well, never mind. The courtroom experience may prove to be the inspiration for a future column...or a work of art.

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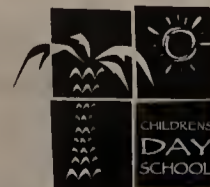
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Stopping to Savor those Treats. Continuing our coverage of the 2005 Halloween adventures in Noe Valley, we present Julia Ready (center) and the gang from Growing Up childcare. The muppet monsters paused on 24th Street in front of Savor restaurant for taste tests and to pose for our awed photographer.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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At right, fourth-grade teacher Remy Everett leads kids up Church Street on the homeward leg of the 2005 walk.

Photo by Paula Whitehead



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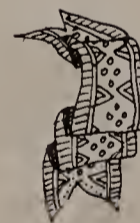
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SCHOOL REPORT

This month's School Report, written by school parents and volunteers, reveals that academic, artistic, and solar energy is fueling learning at three local public schools—James Lick, Fairmount, and Alvarado.

JAMES LICK

Teachers and Parents: Making a Difference Together

An air of excited optimism filled the halls of James Lick Middle School at Back to School Night last month as chatting parents shared first impressions of the school's many new teachers and classes. Differentiated instruction in math and English will be offered this year, along with a greatly expanded selection of electives: Ballet Folklorico dance; rock, jazz, and choral music; drama; visual arts; video production; peer resources; and a math "problem-solving" course. Everyone is thrilled that James Lick continues to make significant gains academically, while developing a promising new arts program at the same time.

Parent volunteers are helping with tasks ranging from assisting with playground supervision to translating non-confidential school communications into Spanish—freeing the staff to spend more time with James Lick's 614 lively students.

Based on the enormous increase in parent involvement at James Lick and a great new infusion of outstanding teachers, Principal Carmelo Sgarlato predicts a very successful school year ahead.

Principal's Chat in Spanish and English

The school year's first chat with the principal filled the Parent Room to capacity last month, as Mr. Sgarlato discussed the state of the school and answered parents' queries about homework, dress codes, school safety, and the transition to middle school.

Our new Parent Liaison, Leonor Jackson, translated everyone's comments into Spanish or English, encouraging a lively exchange of ideas among speakers of both languages. Join us for coffee and the next chat with Principal Sgarlato on Friday, Oct. 20, at 8:30 a.m.

Lights On for Beyond the Bell Program

A potluck dinner Thursday, Oct. 12, will celebrate the opening of our new after-school program, Beyond the Bell, with an orientation and lights-on celebra-



Kids from Fairmount School jam on stage with Jorge Santana (right) at a September party at the Pritikin mansion on Chenery Street.
Photo by Kote Simmons

tion from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This free program provides an hour of academic support (homework and/or tutoring), followed by an hour of enrichment activities chosen from the following: chess, yearbook, choir, computer lab, garage band, carnival dance and drumming, breakdancing, improv theater, poetry, DJ-ing and MC-ing, newspaper, storytelling, soccer, and basketball—and more! About 30 percent of our students enrolled for the first eight-week session, bringing the program to capacity with additional students on a waiting list.

Mexico Trip Mapped Out

James Lick Middle School proudly announces its Ninth Annual Independent Study International Field Trip to Merida, Campeche, Celestun, and the Mayan ruins at Becan, Xpujil, and Ek Balam, Yucatan. The nine-day trip in February 2007 will include visits to cities, jungle areas, historic sites, markets, museums, and schools. Expect to see many fundraising activities to offset the cost of the trip for participating students—we'd like to see as many of our kids as possible share this extraordinary experience.

Family Health and Fitness Night

In response to Mayor Gavin Newsom's recent initiative to improve fitness and nutrition in the city, our PTSA (Parents, Teachers, and Students Association) is sponsoring a Family Health and Fitness Night on Friday, Oct. 20, based on a program called the Mayor's Challenge: Shape Up San Francisco.

"For the first time, American children born today have a lower life expectancy than their parents," warned Mayor Newsom. "In San Francisco, one quarter of our children are overweight or obese."

Activities will include fitness assessments and a Walking Challenge program designed to develop regular exercise routines, encourage families to be physically

active together, and help participants learn about their neighborhoods.

School cafeterias are serving more fresh produce, and a citywide San Francisco Walk to School Day is planned for Monday, Oct. 4.

Calendar Highlights

Chevy's Fundraiser: If you dine at Chevy's in Stonestown on Wednesday, Oct. 11, between 5 and 9 p.m., a percentage of your food purchase can be donated to James Lick. But you must first pick up a flyer from our Parent Room or download one from the PTSA Yahoo Web site, and show it to your server.

Cleanup Day Saturday, Oct. 14: This is where we really roll up our sleeves and get some chores done at our school site. We're getting a special crew from Hands On Bay Area to do some yard improvements.

Noe Valley Harvest Festival Saturday, Oct. 21: You can park all day in our parking lot for \$10 and support our international travel programs!

SFUSD Enrollment Fair Saturday, Nov. 18: This annual event in the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium brings parents in contact with teams of teachers, staff, and parents from all the public schools in San Francisco to help them choose the best schools for their children.

—Sue Cattoche

FAIRMOUNT

Fall Fun Raising

The Chenery House was rocking on a warm Sunday, Sept. 17, as Jorge Santana and guest musicians delighted a large crowd of families and friends of Fairmount Elementary School. This is the second annual fall benefit bash at the home of Fairmount's next-door neighbor, Noe Valley philanthropist Bob Pritikin.

Partygoers toured the eclectic mansion

with its renowned art collection, including a Bufano sculpture of a whale, an indoor swimming pool, and one of Herb Caen's typewriters, among other San Francisco artifacts. Guests enjoyed a lunch feast of jambalaya and fettucini alfredo, washed down with beer and sangria.

Gwen Chan, the interim superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District, came to the party and spoke to the crowd, complimenting the parents, staff, and principal Karling Aguilera-Fort for their commitment. Former Fairmount principal Linda Luevano, who instituted the two-way immersion program and now serves as an assistant superintendent for the district, also attended the event.

All the dignitaries pointed toward the Fairmount parents as a source of inspiration. "These are two incredible women," Santana said of PTA president Nancy Windesheim, who served as emcee, and parent Madelaine Vella, who conceived of the original event last year and was again the driving force behind this year's benefit.

The main delight was, of course, the music. In addition to getting the crowd dancing to his band's Latin beat, Santana shared the stage with a group of mariachi musicians who, in their elegant white costumes, pleased the crowd with traditional Mexican ballads. A dozen members of the choir from Fairmount took the stage, singing two songs as Santana and his musicians backed them up. Of course, Pritikin himself also performed, strumming his musical saw, amazing the kids who had never seen a saw turned into a musical instrument.

Another "fun raising" school year is off to a great start.

Lights On Afterschool

Neighborhood residents are invited to stop in at Fairmount to sample some of the students' favorite projects in the Lights On Afterschool event from 4 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12. There will be baked goods from the cooking club, tribal chants, and a darkened room lit up by flashlights created in the science club. Children in the after-school program have many activities to choose from every day, and they're ready to show off what they've learned.

Two Harvest Fests

Don't be surprised to find little goblins selling raffle tickets at the Saturday farmers' market and other places around Noe Valley. Fairmount has shifted its spring raffle to fall, and Zephyr Real Estate has donated a \$500 first prize. Other prizes include a \$200 gift certificate to Sports Basement, gift certificates for dinner at Postrio and the Last Supper Club, and tickets to *Beach Blanket Babylon*.

As Noe Valley prepares to celebrate its Harvest Festival, Fairmount is joining in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 47



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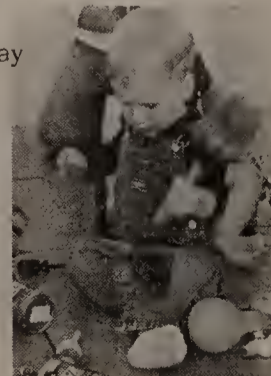
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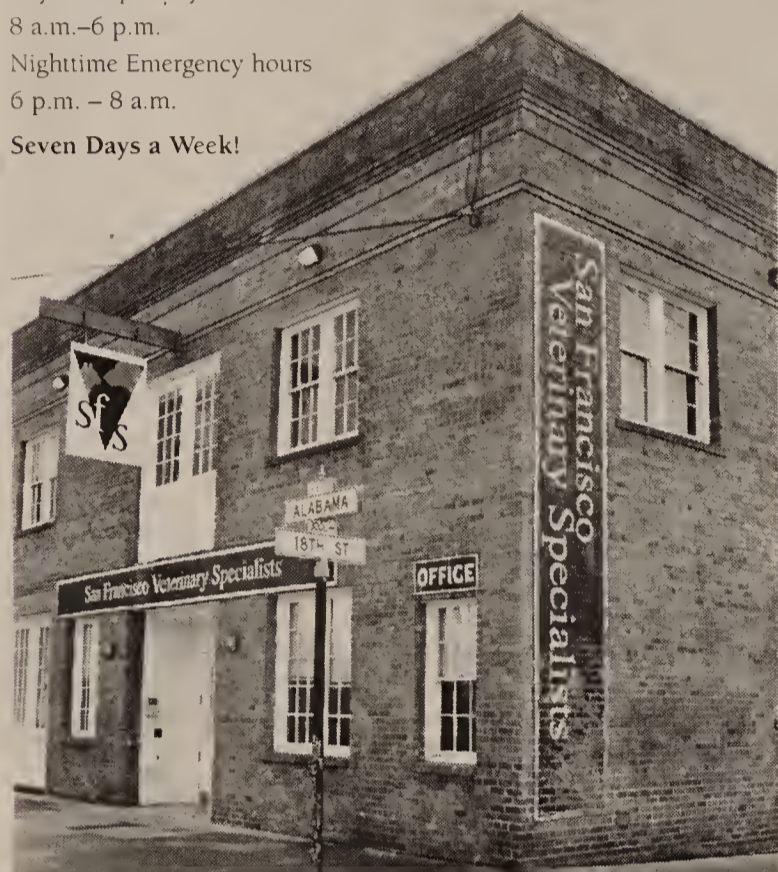
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Alvarado's New Principal Says He's Found a Jewel

By Laura McHale Holland

When San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Barbara Olds asked Gene Barresi if he'd step in as interim principal at Alvarado Elementary School, he jumped at the chance. The appointment is good through the end of this academic year, at which point the position will open for interviews. Barresi, who most recently served as principal at Horace Mann Academic Middle School, hopes to win the job permanently.

"Alvarado is a really wonderful place," he says of the Douglass Street school, which serves 490 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. "It's a not-so-hidden gem with great community involvement, great kids, innovative programs, and a staff that's been working really hard for the last eight or nine years. Test scores have been going up every year until, finally, last year the school broke the 800 mark, which is where the state wants our school to be."

The 800 score is part of California's accountability system for measuring school performance. The scale goes from 200 to 1,000. Eight years ago, Alvarado scored in the high 500s and has improved each successive year. Until a school reaches the 800 mark, the state gives it a target score for improving the next year, but once a school reaches 800, the state no longer imposes targets.

"This reflects very well on our teachers," Barresi says. "They're obviously using instructional time wisely and pacing themselves so they cover the standards in time for the tests, which usually happen in April, so you can't waste a lot of time."

Barresi is concerned with more than

test scores. He wants to promote a collegial student-centered environment where children and adults feel valued. "We owe our children a happy childhood. We want to continue to improve students' skills, give them a sound foundation for middle school, and close the achievement gap that exists between Hispanic and African-American students and those of European and Asian descent."

Barresi, who lives 10 minutes from Alvarado in the Parkside District, moved to San Francisco 30 years ago. His career

highlights include stints as vice principal at Benjamin Franklin Middle School and at Visitacion Valley Middle School.

Barresi doesn't anticipate needing to make major changes at Alvarado. Formerly shunned, Alvarado now has a waiting list. Its Spanish-language immersion program is highly regarded, and its PTA is applauded for backing arts education and other programs at the school. In short, Alvarado is doing well.

Most recently, the school finished some major renovations, making it con-

form to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Construction was funded through Proposition A, which supports school improvements and modernization.

"We did get some nice stuff, too," Barresi says. "Solar panels were installed as a teaching source on alternative energy, and huge planting beds were installed in the lower yard. Our green committee is going to plant all kinds of beautiful things there."

Barresi hopes he'll see the blooms for many seasons to come.



New Alvarado principal Gene Barresi and third-graders (left to right) Jaime Valles, Maya Bonner, Andee Brooker, and Stefan Morgan are excited about their school's growing popularity.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

SCHOOL REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

the fun with its own Harvest Festival, including Halloween activities for kids and the raffle.

Fairmount will hold its first annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 21, from noon to 4 p.m. There will be fabulous seasonal and ethnic foods prepared by Fairmount parents and friends, featuring vegetables grown in our organic school gardens. We'll also have student-led educational tours of our school gardens, as well as natural art projects, natural bath and cooking products for sale, and, of course, seeds and plants for sale. All proceeds go to Fairmount's PTA, which supports the school garden.

Come explore our gardens, share our food, and celebrate our community!

—Tom Ruiz

ALVARADO

Off to a Good Start

Alvarado Elementary's new principal, Gene Barresi, is pleased to announce that overall our school has had a smooth start. Enrollment is stable, most construction issues have been resolved, and standardized test scores are up for the eighth consecutive year. Under the state accountability system, our Academic Performance Index (API) rose from 812 to 820. And under the federal accountability system (Adequate Yearly Growth or AYP), Alvarado students continue to outperform the school district and the state.

Alvarado is happy to welcome back all of last year's classroom teachers. We would also like to welcome several new and returning staff: Jennifer Hill (3-5), Rebecca Pryor (K-2), and Mary Cervantes have joined our Special Education Department, and Ann Chang (first-grade Spanish Immersion) has returned from sabbatical.

Three New Artists

The school is pleased to welcome back two more excellent teachers: Katherine Baird, who begins her seventh year teaching Orff music, and Marissa Kunz, now in her fourth year of teaching visual art at Alvarado. We also look forward to getting to know our three new teaching artists: Dan Stingle (clay), Liz Anderson (theater), and Genevieve Feeley (dance). All three are wonderful teachers as well as professional artists. Additionally, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Feeley are both Spanish bilingual.

Alvarado PTA's next General Assembly takes place Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium (enter on 22nd Street

between Eureka and Douglass streets). The arts program will be highlighted, and this year's artists will be introduced. Dinner and child care are provided.

Picnic & Soccer at Dolores Park

Come out from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to enjoy food and fun with your fellow Alvarado families at our first schoolwide soccer tournament on Sunday, Oct. 15. Each class will field a soccer team made up of students, parents, and staff, who will compete to see who can have the most fun on the field. Bring your favorite picnic food and join the fun!

Solar Panels Installed

Alvarado is the first school in San Francisco to receive a solar electric system as part of the PG&E-sponsored Solar Schools program. The solar panel installation will transform sunlight into electricity for the school. This system will generate about as much electricity as a two-person household would use in one month.

The main purpose of the system is to

educate students and the community about the benefits of solar power. The solar panels have been installed on the schoolyard, where people can stand beneath them and relate to their physical size.

Students will be able to monitor the amount of energy being produced by our solar panels and compare it with other solar schools across the state. Alvarado teachers can attend a training workshop that shows them how to integrate the specialized curriculum with their science standards. This is an exciting opportunity to demonstrate to our students the viability of renewable energy. To learn more, go to <http://www.pge.com/solarschools>.

School Tours

If you'd like to visit Alvarado, we offer school tours every Tuesday this fall beginning at 8:30 a.m. Please call the school office to book an appointment.

—Mara Sieling

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
Gene Barresi, Principal
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
www.alvaradoschool.net

Fairmount Elementary School
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal
65 Chenery Street at Randall
415-695-5669

James Lick Middle School
Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
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You won't feel as bad about your flabby neck or your misbehaved dog after reading the selections on this month's book list, all available at nearby library branches. If you'd like to reserve or have a book sent to a specific branch, visit the San Francisco Library's web site, www.sfpl.org. Or you can browse the Bookmobile, which is parked near St. Philip's School at Elizabeth and Diamond streets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Note: The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street remains closed for a two-year earthquake renovation. For information on the project, call 557-4353.

LIBRARY SELECTIONS

Adult Fiction

■ Although Chinese factory worker Dan Dong sneaked in to the state and corporate banquets just to eat the exotic food, he finds himself compelled to expose a scandal, in Geling Yan's suspenseful political farce *The Banquet Bug*.

■ While investigating the strange suicide of a college co-ed, Louisiana detective Dave Robicheaux encounters another young woman who may be the daughter of a friend he saw murdered 25 years before, in *Pegasus Descending*, by James Lee Burke.

■ Four Americans are drawn into a search through ancient Mayan culture in Scott Smith's horror thriller *The Rnins*.

■ In *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*, a novel constructed like a college literary course syllabus, author Marisha Pessl plots an intricate murder mystery about a teenager who befriends a group of eccentric geniuses.

Adult Nonfiction

■ In her memoir *I Feel Bad About My Neck*, screenwriter Nora Ephron directs her wit at the pitfalls of being "a woman of a certain age."

■ In *The Price of Privilege* (subtitled "How Parental Pressure and Material Advantage Are Creating a Generation of Disconnected and Unhappy Kids"), Marin psychotherapist Madeline Levine observes affluent teenagers and notes some gaps in their lives.

■ Thomas L. Friedman explains how forces like blogging and Wikipedia are reshaping the globe through their ability to propagate the views of the little guy, in *The World Is Flat*.

■ *Marley & Me*, a memoir by journalist John Grogan, describes what it's like to live with "the world's worst dog."

Adult annotations by Sally Smith and Karol Barske, of the Voice staff

Children's Fiction

■ In Elvira Savadier's *Time to Get Dressed!* toddler Solomon insistently dresses and feeds himself, with a little help from Dad, as the morning clock ticks away. Ages 1 to 3.

■ Barbara Barbieri McGrath's fun version of "The Little Red Hen" story, illustrated by Martha Alexander, features *The Little Green Witch*, pumpkins, and three totally unhelpful housemates—a ghost, a bat, and a gremlin. Ages 5 to 8.

■ Pink toenails and blueberry pie help a spunky little girl befriend a pesky little ogre in *May Belle and the Ogre*, by Bethany Roberts, winningly illustrated by Marsha Winborn. Ages 5 to 8.

■ *The Love of Two Stars: A Korean Legend* is the bittersweet, romantic story of Kyonu, a farmer and cattle herder, and Jingnyo, a weaver, who may only reunite in the Milky Way on the seventh day of the seventh month of the lunar year. Janie Jaehyun Park's textured acrylic paintings add cultural details to her retelling. Ages 5 to 9.

■ Robert's father is a sky-walking ironworker, and the dad of his Chinese American friend Charlie is a painter. Both men are constructing the Golden Gate Bridge in *Pop's Bridge*, by Eve Bunting, illustrated by C. F. Payne. Ages 6 to 9.

Children's Nonfiction

■ *The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H. A. Rey*, by Louise Borden, is a richly illustrated biography of the famous monkey's creators. The pair's childhoods, their sojourn in Brazil, their time in France as Hitler rose to power, and their dramatic escape from Paris are brought to life by Allan Drummond's art, along with photos and the Reys' personal papers and book illustrations. Ages 8 to 11.

Children's annotations by Pam Ow, Children's Librarian, Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library

LIBRARY EVENTS

Lapsits, Stories, and Singer/Guitarist Lisa Atkinson

■ Come enjoy stories, songs, and fingerplays with your baby or toddler, at the Noe Valley Library's Tuesday *lapsits*, held at 10:15 a.m. on Oct. 3, 10, 17, and 31, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez Street (corner of Clipper). Bethany will also host *preschool story time* on the same dates in October but starting at 11 a.m. This is a reading-aloud program for children ages 3 to 5.

■ Children of all ages, especially those who like to sing, are invited to attend a special *music* program at Bethany on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 10:30 a.m., featuring singer and guitarist Lisa Atkinson.

■ Noe Valley's *Bookmobile* will welcome guests on Monday and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The spacious van parks on Elizabeth Street, between Diamond and Castro.

■ Meanwhile, the Eureka Valley, Glen Park, Mission, Bernal Heights, and other branch libraries have scheduled a variety of other programs, lectures, and *special events*, for both children and adults. Go to www.sfpl.org for complete listings and hours of operation.



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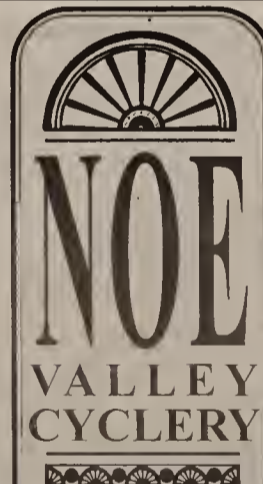
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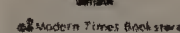
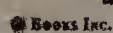
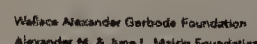
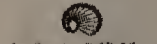


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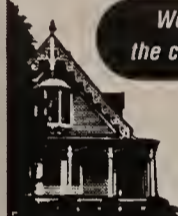
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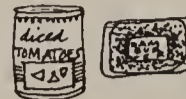
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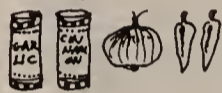
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10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the November 2006 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before Nov. 3. **The deadline for Class Ads is Oct. 15, 2006.**

Note: The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed for one month on our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

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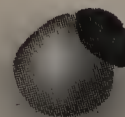
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Liquidation Blues

By Mazook

PLEASE REWIND: First Choice is no longer a choice for Noe Valley's video viewers. The store's DVDs and tapes are not for rent anymore. Instead, everything is for sale, including the fixtures, furnishings, and movie posters.

Noe Valley's second oldest video arcade, located on the corner of 24th and Church, stopped renting videos in mid-September and hired a liquidation company to sell the collection. Manager Jim Leal and employees Robert, Lisa, Mike, Victor, and John left a poignant note on the window telling customers that "after 24 years, we are saying goodbye to all the wonderful friends we've made and all the babies we've seen grow up and have babies of their own."

Those babies and their parents are wistful, too (see *Letters to the Editor*, page 8).

"I had one lady come in here last week," says Shane Matheny, who is representing Liquid Systems, LLC, the Texas liquidation company, "who looked up at the liquidation signs, looked at me, and started to cry. We've just had so many people come in here and tell us how sad they are about this video store closing."

As you Noe Valley history buffs know, the store first opened in 1982 as National Video, then later became West Coast Video, and then turned into First Choice Video about three years ago. The local franchise was owned by Tony D'Alessandro, who now lives in Nevada.

A formal press release, issued for the owner by Liquid Systems on Sept. 25, is titled "Noe Valley's Last Picture Show." It states that the reasons for closing the store "are many, but include: the proliferation of large corporate chains, piracy and illegal downloads, rising real estate costs, and alternative methods of delivery of movies." Adds Matheny, "The so-called big-box retailers..., combined with the online Netflix movie rental services, have seized such a large and growing market share over movie rentals and sales that it is virtually impossible for small independent retailers to compete."

Matheny, who liquidated another of D'Alessandro's video stores three years ago across the Bay in El Cerrito, says that everything will be sold by December and the keys to the 24th Street premises will be turned over to the landlord, "who has been a great help."

Do you remember what was on that corner before National Video opened? Amazingly, co-liquidator John Groom, who is from Dallas, knew the answer. However, he didn't know the exact name of the business. Do you? The answer is on the next page, but don't look now.



STILL PLAYING: Video Wave was opened on Castro Street above Jersey in 1980 by Alexander Gardener and his wife Gardenia, who sold it only last year to Gwen Sanderson and her partner Colin Hutton. The movie rental shop seems as busy as ever, and Sanderson and Hutton say their long-standing business has lived up to their expectations.

"We are staying competitive. We have a list of 35,000 members we've accumulated over the years, and continue to have a viable clientele of regulars who come in asking for advice on what to see," says Sanderson, "so I am very optimistic. We are focusing on what the neighborhood likes and have a lot of independent and foreign film titles, many kid and family

movies and TV series, as well as hard-to-find titles."

The store is currently renting children's and family movies at the rate of five nights for a dollar. "Our most popular, off-beat documentary right now is *Crossing the Bridge: The Sounds of Istanbul*, produced by a British musician, Fatih Akin. It is quite powerful."

By the way, for all you Video Wave devotees, Sanderson says the store is creating a computer data base and will be going off the old carbon copy method of paperwork soon.

Meanwhile, over at Noe Valley Video on 24th near Sanchez, owners Marlene and Brian Dunleavy say they don't feel threatened either. The store's been loaning tapes and disks for eight years.

"We are doing well here and have a very loyal customer base. We just have to evolve with the industry and stay in touch with what our neighborhood wants to see," says Marlene, "although I was really kind of sad when I heard First Choice was closing. That was our own regular video source, before we opened up here."

Marlene says people in Noe Valley talk to one another and to her and Brian and often help create a buzz about a film. "For example, we recently received a request for a video documentary about 9/11 called *Loose Change*. Then we heard that it was one of Google's Top 10 and that it was a topic of conversation among some of the folks at the Music in the Park gala at Noe Courts. So we ordered it and hopefully we will have four DVDs available for the neighborhood."

Before we leave videodom, another quiz question: Do you know the name of Downtown Noe Valley's first video rental store, opened circa 1978? That answer is on the next page, too.



LOCAL BOOKINGS: Whodunit readers will be happy to know that famous mystery writer Jacqueline Winspear, author

of the Maisie Dobbs series, will appear at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore (4175 24th, just below Diamond) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13. Actually, mystery fans will get a double scoop that night—Mill Valley writer Tony Broadbent is also scheduled to appear. Hopefully, he will do a reading from his new book, *Spectres in the Smoke*, which won a prize for best historical mystery novel at Left Coast Crime in the U.K.

For you fans of Arcadia Publishing's historic photo books about San Francisco neighborhoods (and other neighborhoods across the country), Bernadette Hooper's *San Francisco's Mission District* has just been released. Hooper is a third-generation San Franciscan and the fourth generation of her family to live in the same Mission District home.

Arcadia's book about Noe Valley has been a bestseller and is now in its fourth printing. It was written by our own Noe Valley archivist, Bill Yenne, who has been on a book tour in the Northwest, celebrating his books about Lewis and Clark, Glacier National Park, and *Indian Wars: The Campaign for the American West*.

Yenne will be in town for a signing of his very popular coffee-table book *San Francisco: Then and Now* on Oct. 28 at 1 p.m., at the San Francisco Costco on 10th Street.



TRADING PLACES are longtime Downtown Noe Valley merchants Jack Epstein and Marilyn Sitkoff, who first opened up a store on the corner of 25th and Sanchez in 1983 called Ocean Front Walkers. They designed, hand-stitched, and then sold beach-style clothes to locals. They wound up on 24th Street next to Hopwell's Restaurant (now Le Zinc) three years later and now sell fun pajamas, socks, and boxer shorts.

Then 12 years ago, Epstein took over

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

a small space one block down, near Streetlight Records, and opened up Chocolate Covered, which features chocolate candies and candy boxes. Epstein designs and produces the boxes with photographic images transferred directly onto the box. "It's called Cyanotype and it's a process that dates back to 1842. You make a photo paper negative and the images are printed and then transferred to the tin or wood box," he explains.

Currently, Epstein is taking pictures of street signs in Noe Valley and around the city, as well as landmarks, historic sights, and local schools. His candy and boxes have become so popular that "I need more space, so Marilyn and I are going to trade stores so I can devote more shelf space to display the various boxes," Epstein says.

Just to be clear: This means Chocolate Covered will go up the hill (next to Le Zinc) and Ocean Front Walkers will come down (next to Streetlight).

In other Downtown Noe Valley news, rumors that Noe's Bar at 24th and Church has been sold are not true. What is true is that an ABC notice has been posted on the door, but the sign is there only because owner Wayne Basso is incorporating.

Rumors be true that the General Nutrition Center vitamin-supplement outlet on 24th Street has closed. According to neighboring merchants, the shutdown was accomplished in about two days. No liquidation sales there.



SAD FAREWELLS: We will all miss Noe Valleyan Sameer "Sam" Kawa, who passed away last month. Sam took over Herb's Fine Foods in 1973, and continued the café's long tradition as Noe Valley's premier greasy spoon (founded in

1943). One of my first Rumors items in 1981 was a list of tips Sam shared from Herb's suggestion box. My favorite was: "Put more jus in the roast beef au jus."

The family says Sam's wife Rita will keep things going.

Sam's brother Fuad "Fred" Kawa passed away earlier this year, in April. Fred took over Hopwell's Restaurant in 1976 and ran it until April 2001. The site is now home to Le Zinc.

"He enjoyed this neighborhood so much," says Fred's wife Hydi, "and after he retired, he would enjoy going back and seeing the fig tree and lemon tree he planted in the back yard."

The neighborhood was also saddened to learn that horseracing legend Lost in the Fog, ill with cancer, had to be euthanized Sept. 17. Owner Harry Aleo, of Twin Peaks Properties on 24th Street, says the 4-year-old colt was cremated and his ashes will be buried in a special spot at Golden Gate Fields. Look for the release this winter of a documentary about

Lost in the Fog, produced by local filmmaker John Corey.



RE-MODEL CITIZENS: Construction began Sept. 5 on a \$6.8 million renovation project at Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street. The facelift will take more than a year to finish (estimated completion: spring of '08), according to city project director Keith Kawamura. The recreation center, gym, and children's play area will all be revamped and reramped. "The dog area will remain open, however, until the spring of 2007," says Kawamura, "when it will be closed so we can redo the surface, add lighting, and extend the fences."

An oversight committee has been formed by some local residents to keep an eye on the project, as well as on the fate of the Noe Valley Library, which is under construction on Jersey Street.

Mark your calendars for Nov. 16 and Dec. 12, when community meetings are

being scheduled by the Noe Valley Association (a.k.a. Community Benefits District), to explore long-term planning ideas for Downtown Noe Valley. The meetings will be held at St. Philip's Community Hall from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

According to NVA director Debra Niemann, "we are calling it an urban village plan and seeking input from community members. It will be drawn up by a group called Urban Ecology, which is a non-profit group that can give us ideas on the best practices for 'walkable streets.'" The meetings will be led by Urban Ecology's Dan Neuwirth, a streetscape designer who is also a Noe Valley resident.



THE LAST LAUGH CAFE on Dolores near Valley is quite busy these days since Bill and Kristen Schwartz took over the spot and began serving food and beverages morning, noon, and night (6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.). Local art adorns the walls, and a dictionary sits in the front window for the use of readers and writers. The place recently got its beer and wine license.

On Sept. 30 the café started a music program, with acoustic groups performing on Saturday afternoons once a month. The inaugural concert featured the Squirrelly String Band, consisting of a wash-tub bass, banjo, fiddle, and guitar. The band will be doing an encore presentation on Oct. 21.

You might know Bill Schwartz from his pre-café life as a drummer for the punk rock group Those Damn Accordion Kids.

You had the last laugh if you remembered that Mercury Pharmacy was the store that occupied the southeast corner of 24th and Church before National Video. And our first downtown video store was called Video Uno. It was on the south side of 24th Street near Sanchez, where the French Tulip now blooms.



That's all, folks.



On Sept. 12, more than 45 volunteers from Levi Strauss & Co. and Friends of the Urban Forest streamed into the neighborhood to help the Noe Valley Association plant trees on 24th Street. According to NVA chief Debra Niemann, the greening is just one part of an "urban village plan" that neighbors are contemplating for the commercial strip.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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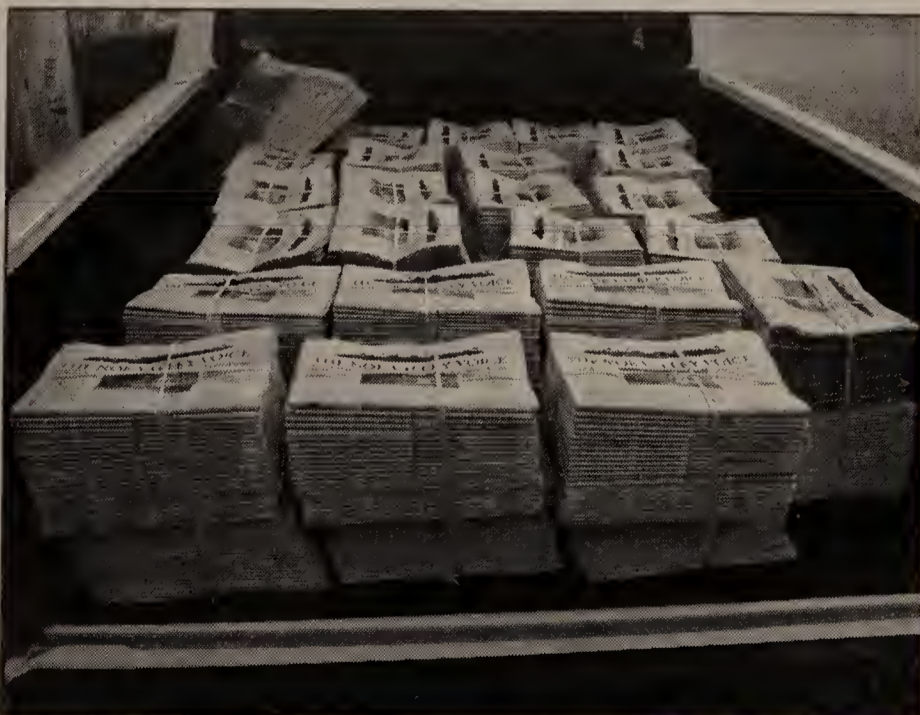
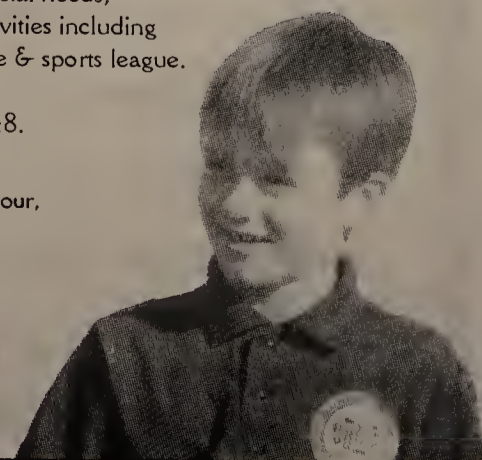
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Photo by Jack Tipple

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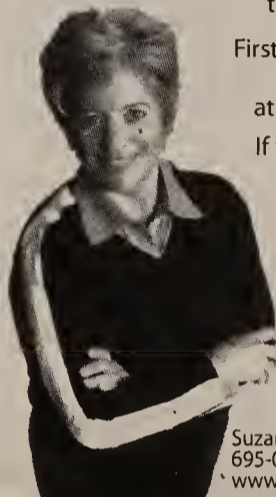
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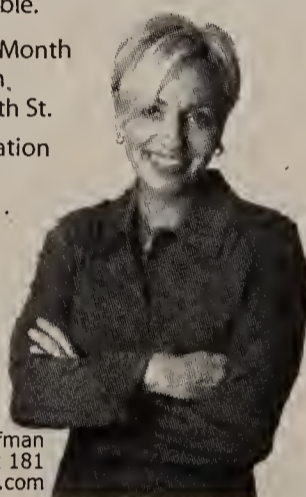
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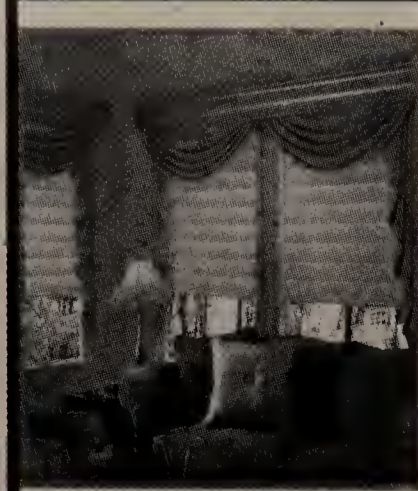
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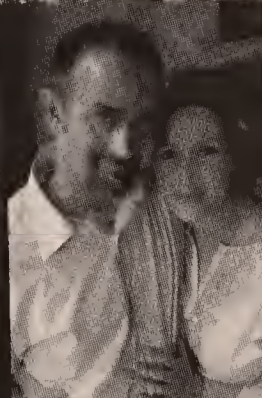
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Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
 E-mail: capa@home4us.org
 Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
 Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100
 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Business (CSB)

Contact: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966,
 or Paula Benton, 248-0235
 E-mail: bentonp@sprynet.com
 Meetings: Third Monday, every other
 month. Location varies. Sept. 18 meeting at
 Fattoush, 1361 Church St., 6:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30
 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
 Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-
 bership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn
 Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
 Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Third Thursday of the month
 (except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-
 tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
 Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San
 Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings: Call for information. The annual
 Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day
 before Mother's Day.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
 E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
 P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
 E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
 Web site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San
 Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
 month (call or e-mail to confirm), at
 St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Contact: Christina Goebel, 826-7772
 E-mail: christina_goebel@yahoo.com
 Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,

San Francisco, CA 94119

Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: noestrolls@aol.com
 Weekly Strolls: Tuesdays and Thursdays at
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 St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg. Stroll
 tours Noe Valley, the Castro, and the
 Mission. Membership free. To join, and for
 more details, visit www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Association

(also known as the Noe Valley Community
 Benefit District)
 Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
 Dispatch: Call 559-8492 to report spills,
 debris, or garbage on 24th Street

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
 Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month;
 Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,
 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between
 Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
 Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
 Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San
 Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
 Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021
 Sanchez St., 6 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,
kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-
 Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
 Mailing Address: Friends of the
 San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94102
 Meetings: Call for information.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954
 Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th

St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month.
 Call for location and time.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
 Contact: Mina Kenvin
 E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Mindy Kershner, 377-3890
 E-mail: mindytower@aol.com
 Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contacts: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
 E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
 Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
 Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
 Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San
 Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet
 at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk
 route. Info? www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.)

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and
 Fair Oaks to Mission
 Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
 E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
 Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
 Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
 Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call
 to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center,
 Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m.



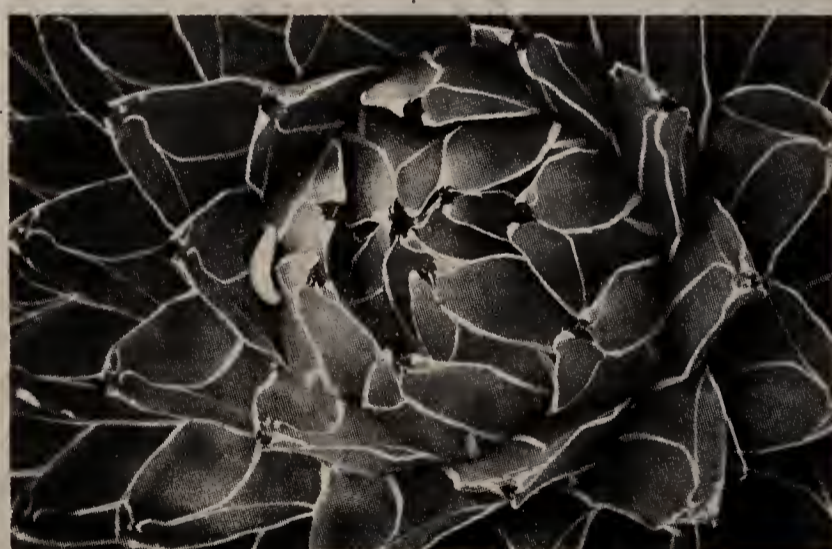
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NO. 1
MAY, 2006

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The One-Night Stand

◆ BY ALEXA ASHER ◆

I knew before I woke up that he would be gone. That was no surprise. What I wondered, though, was whether he'd left a quick sloppy note saying, "Had to run. Thanks for last night." Or if he was the sensitive type who didn't want to hurt my feelings and instead would write, "Sorry about leaving so early, I had a great time and would love to see you again" — although he couldn't see me again even if he'd wanted to, because he'd never asked for my number.

I started obsessing: Will the note be on the pillow next to mine, where his soft brown hair lay last night? Or on the kitchen counter next to the coffee mug he drank from and then left for me to wash? Is it even worth it to open my eyes at this point? Will I feel any better about myself if I get out of bed? God, when am I going to grow up?

After a long debate over whether I should get up and make breakfast or just lie there until I starved to death and was found weeks later, half eaten by dogs, by the upstairs neighbor who'd complained to police about the stench of my rotting corpse, I decided to get up—mainly because there weren't any dogs to eat me, a fact that would deprive my tragic story of the required juicy tidbit. Plus, James, and not my neighbor, was supposed to be the one to find my decaying corpse—the whole plan was to punish him for his horrible behavior.

Better yet, James would come to the apartment the night before, eyes full of tears, begging for forgiveness, screaming, "I'm nothing without you! Please take me back and I promise to spend the rest of my life making this up to you." However, before he'd had a chance to say any of that, he would find Tim or Todd or whatever his name was and me lying in bed drinking that expensive red wine James and I had bought in Napa, which we were saving for our three-year anniversary next week. He'd see me smiling, laughing, having a great time, and he'd be completely

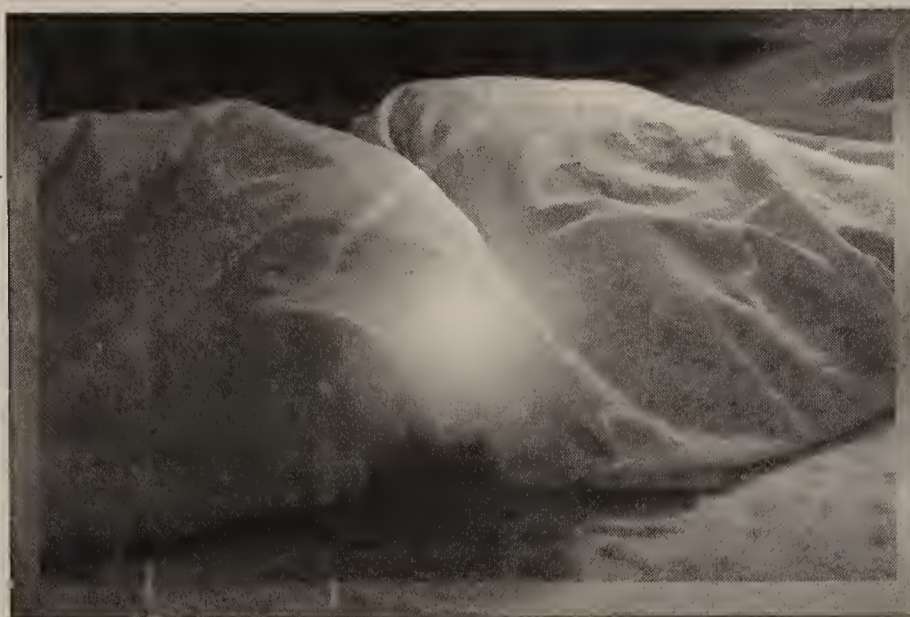


PHOTO JACK LIPPLE

heartbroken by the sight of me enjoying the company of another man, and he'd run out into the street and get hit by a car, winding up in the hospital with two broken legs and a fractured arm.

Of course, after hearing the terrible news, I'd rush to the hospital to hold his hand and be by his side during his time of pain. He'd apologize for all the heartache he'd caused me, promise that *she* was out his life for good, and tell me I'm the only woman he could ever love. I'd forgive him, of course. How could I not? He's the one for me, and when it comes down to it, I'd rather fight with him than make love to anyone else.

So I got up...no note on the pillow. Great, so he's *that* kind of guy. I put on my light-pink robe, the one James had bought me last Christmas, with the matching slippers that were actually too big but that I wore anyway because he had picked them out himself, and went into the kitchen.

There it was—the note.

Should I even read it? I know what the damn thing will say. But he was so nice, I'm sure it's gentle. I can't imagine him writing anything rude. Rude or not, it's still the same message: Goodbye forever. Well...what the hell.

Ever since James left, "What the hell" had become my life's motto. Unfortunately, it wasn't turning out to be a very good one.

"Want another piece of cake?"
 "What the hell."
 "The bag looks great on you. Do you want to charge it?"
 "What the hell."
 "Can I buy you a drink?"
 "What the hell."
 "Want to go back to your place?"
 "What the hell."

So far, this motto had helped me gain six pounds and a huge credit card bill, and now it had landed me in this damn situation. Oh, what the hell.

Dear Lilly,

Way to pretend to be sweet.

I'd prefer that you didn't have to read this note.

I'm sure you would.

I'd hoped I would be back before you woke up.

Back? From where?

I wanted to surprise you and make you breakfast, but your cupboards informed me that you haven't been to the grocery store in a while.

It's been about two weeks. Wait! What is he saying here?

So I ran to the store to pick up some things. I'll be back soon.

He's coming back? What kind of one-night stand is this?

P.S. I hope you enjoyed last night as much as I did. You're really an amazing woman.

Love, Tom.

Is this some kind of a joke? He's not seriously coming back.

Knock, knock, knock.

"Lilly, are you awake? It's me, Tom."



Alexa Asher was born and raised in San Francisco. She has lived in Noe Valley for the past four years, which, since she is only 16 years old, is a quarter of her life. After attending the Jewish Community High School for three years, she is currently following a course of independent study through the University of Indiana. "The One-Night Stand" is her first published piece of fiction.

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, poetry or photos for publication on the Last Page. Mail manuscripts, which should be no longer than 1,500 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you want your manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.